Faith Talk
Sunday. 11.8.26
Series. Abide
Sermon. When God Seems Silent

Scripture

- **Ruth 1:20:** “Don’t call me Naomi. Call me Mara,” she answered, “for the Almighty has made me very bitter.”
- **Ruth 2:12:** May the Lord reward you for what you have done, and may you receive a full reward from the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge.
- **Ruth 4:15:** He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. Indeed, your daughter-in-law, who loves you and is better to you than seven sons, has given birth to him.

Sermon Summary
The book of Ruth is one of the rare books in the Bible where God never speaks or acts supernaturally—no visions, no miracles, no angels—which makes it one of the most relatable books in Scripture.

Reading the Bible can sometimes feel like watching the Olympics: extraordinary people having extraordinary encounters with God, while our own lives feel ordinary and quiet. But Ruth shows us that just because God seems silent, He is not absent, uninvolved, or finished with our story.

Through Naomi the sufferer, we see how pain can push us toward isolation and cause us to adopt our grief as our identity — but God refuses to let tragedy write the final page. Through Boaz the faithful, we see what it looks like to keep obeying God’s Word even when no one else is, treating success not as something earned but as something stewarded for others' flourishing.

Both characters had no idea what God was quietly building through their ordinary faithfulness — a lineage that would lead all the way to King David and ultimately to Jesus.

Naomi's story is really our story: all of us find ourselves far from our spiritual home, in need of a redeemer we cannot provide for ourselves. Just as God sent Boaz to redeem Ruth and Naomi, He sent His Son Jesus to redeem us — buying us back into the family of God and securing a future no amount of suffering can take away.

Abiding in God when He seems silent means trusting that He is quietly working out His plan of redemption in our lives, even when we cannot see it.

Discussion Questions

Conversations with Adults

1. Naomi tried to push people away in her suffering and even renamed herself Bitterness. Have you ever let a painful season define your identity — and what helped you hold onto the truth that your suffering is not the end of your story?
2. Boaz lived faithfully in a culture where everyone was doing what was right in their own eyes. What does it look like practically to keep obeying God's Word when the people around you aren't — and what makes that hard?
3. Looking back at a difficult or confusing season of your life, where do you now see evidence that God was quietly working even when He seemed silent at the time?

Conversations with Youth

1. Have you ever felt like God was distant or not involved in your life? When that happens, what do you tend to do — pull away, keep going, or something else?
2. Ruth clung to Naomi when it would have been easier to leave. Who is someone in your life who has clung to you in a hard season — and who are you clinging to right now?
3. Boaz didn't wait for God to speak before he chose to be faithful and generous. What's one area of your life where you already know what God wants — and you just need to do it, even if it costs you something?
4. On a scale of 1 to 10, how much do you think the people at your school consider God in their everyday decisions — and what do you think would change if they did?
5. Romans 8:28 says God works all things together for good for those who love Him. Does that feel true to you right now — and what would it look like to actually live as you believe it?

Conversations with Kids

1. Naomi felt like everything had gone wrong in her life and wanted to give up hope. Have you ever felt like that? What helped you feel better?
2. Boaz was kind to Ruth even though he didn't have to be. Can you think of a time you were kind to someone even when it was hard or cost you something?
3. God was working in Ruth and Naomi's story even though they couldn't see it. What is something you are trusting God with right now, even though you can't see what He is doing yet?

Prayer

Father, **thank You** that Your silence is never absence — that even when we cannot hear You or see You moving, You are quietly writing a story of redemption in our lives that we cannot yet fully read. Thank You for Naomi, who showed us that grief and loss are not the final page, and for Boaz, who showed us what faithful obedience looks like when no one else is following You. Most of all, thank You for Jesus — our true Kinsman Redeemer, who gave everything to bring us back into Your family and secure a future no suffering can steal.

We ask You to give us the courage to keep abiding in You even when You seem silent — to keep trusting, keep obeying, and keep clinging to others the way Ruth clung to Naomi.

We commit to remaining faithful, confident that You are working all things together for good for those who love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.