



STUDY GUIDE: April 26, 2026

Message Series: When Life Gets Hard
Message Title: The Cost of Redemption
Teaching Pastor: Brian Hughes

Warm-up / Icebreaker (10 min.)

Would you rather try to solve a difficult problem completely on your own, or ask someone for help right away? Why?

Pray:

Heavenly Father, thank You for bringing us together today. Thank You for the chance to pause in the middle of busy lives and turn our attention toward You. As we spend time in Your Word and in conversation with one another, we ask that You would quiet distractions and help us be present in this moment. Help us listen well, share honestly, and grow closer to You and to each other through this time. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Get Started (30 min.)

Pastor Brian reminded us that Ruth and Naomi weren't just facing inconvenience—they were facing survival-level need. They didn't simply need help for the moment. They needed redemption.

Read **Ruth 2:1–3**.

“Naomi and Ruth take one step—gleaning in the fields—hoping for a meal. That's help. Just get some nourishment going, temporary as the relief may be. But that one step yields the next one—and it's a big one.” —Pastor Brian Hughes

- How can small steps of faith open the door for God to do something bigger?
- Where have you seen God provide at just the right moment in your life?

Read **Ruth 2:17–20**.

Naomi realizes Boaz is not just kind—he is a **kinsman-redeemer**.

- What stands out to you about Naomi's reaction when she learns who Boaz is?
- Why do you think redemption means more than temporary help?

Reflect and Commit (40 min.)

Read **Ruth 4:2–6**.

“In order to be a kinsman-redeemer, you had to be a close relative, have the financial ability, and be willing. Redemption is costly and requires selfless sacrifice.” —Pastor Brian Hughes

- Why do you think the first redeemer refused the responsibility?
- What does this story teach us about the cost of redemption?
- How does Boaz reflect the character of Jesus in this moment?

Read **Ruth 4:16–17**.

Naomi began the story empty but ended it restored—and part of a much bigger story than she could see.

- What does Naomi’s story teach us about how God restores what feels lost?
- Where have you seen God redeem something difficult in your own story?
- How does knowing the ending of Naomi’s story change how you view seasons of waiting?

Read **Galatians 4:4–7**.

“Jesus is our Kinsman Redeemer. We didn’t just need temporary help—we needed redemption. Folded into a larger family.” —Pastor Brian Hughes

- Why is it easy to fall into the mindset of trying to “earn” our place with God?
- What does it mean to you personally that Jesus chose to redeem you?

“When Jesus says ‘It is finished,’ He means ‘paid in full.’ Redeemed. Some of you still believe a subtle lie that you have to buy or earn your way into the family. That God is putting up with you. That you barely made the cut. That if He really knew everything... He’d change His mind. But look at the story. He didn’t just accept Ruth. He pursued her. You are not reluctantly redeemed. You are deeply wanted. You needed someone close enough to represent you, strong enough to rescue you, and loving enough to choose you. And that’s exactly who Jesus is. Stop trying to fix yourself. Stop thinking one more adjustment will do it. You don’t need help—you need a Redeemer. And He’s already done the work. And if you already follow Jesus: Stop living like you’re still earning it. Stop waking up trying to prove your worth to God. You’re not working for redemption...you’re living from it. And you know what our response should be? Simply this: Thank you. Thank you for redeeming me. Thank you for the sacrifice. Thank you for choosing me and giving me a new name and granting me life.” —Pastor Brian Hughes

Gather Prayer Requests (5–10 min.)

Share prayer needs and take time to pray for one another.

Father God, thank You for being our Redeemer. Thank You that You don’t just offer temporary help but lasting restoration and belonging in Your family. Help us live with confidence that our identity is secure because of what Jesus has already finished for us. Teach us to trust Your redemption in every part of our story—even the parts we don’t yet understand. In Jesus’ name, Amen.