



**NEWMARKET COMMUNITY CHURCH**

*Connecting people with God  
within authentic community  
where all are welcome.*

Word Notes: Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Tony Hodge: Ruth chapter 1 - Relationships

The expectations on families to care for widows as set out in the Old Testament might seem strange to us –to marry their brother or sister-in-law if widowed is not our custom. Yet this does show God's abiding love for the vulnerable in a society where to be widowed would otherwise mean destitution. What does stand out however is Ruth's decision to stay with Naomi as she returns to Judah. This means leaving her own close family and going to a foreign land. I can only conclude that she has seen something pretty amazing in Naomi's family and faith and make an impassioned commitment of love and faith.

### **Discussion points for Small Groups**

- 1) What kind of person are you "when the going gets tough"? Discuss and share examples where you have stepped back or away and those where you have stepped up. What was different and how might you prepare yourself?
- 2) Who are "your people" – the ones who you will stand by, help and support whatever the situation? If you are a Covenant Member of NCC what does that mean to you – and can you remember what you have committed to do?
- 3) How can NCC as a whole, and small groups in particular come together in the current Covid-19 situation? What practical steps will you take to maintain relationships and help each other and your neighbours where needed? Where appropriate could you use the card on page 2 of these notes? Get together with like-minded people in the community via social media to cover your neighbourhood.
- 4) Reflect of Martin Luther's words below and decide how you will live and act as a representative of Christ in these times:

### **From Ken Baker:**

*When Martin Luther was dealing with The Black Death plague, he wrote these wise words that can help inform the way we approach things happening in our world right now...*

"I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance inflict and pollute others and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me and I have done what he has expected of me and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others. If my neighbor needs me however I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely as stated above. See this is such a God-fearing faith because it is neither brash nor foolhardy and does not tempt God."

Luther's Works Volume 43 pg 132 the letter "Whether one may flee from a Deadly Plague" written to Rev. Dr. John Hess

### **Prayer**

Continue to pray for each other, friends, family, neighbours and nation – and then be the Body of Christ.

**HELLO!** If you are self-isolating, I can help.

**My name is**

.....

**I live locally at**

.....

**My phone number is**

.....

**If you are self-isolating due to COVID-19 I can help with:**

Picking up shopping

Posting mail

A friendly phone call

Urgent supplies

Just call or text me and I'll do my best to help you (for free!)

**Coronavirus is contagious. Please take every precaution to ensure you are spreading only kindness. Avoid physical contact (2m distance). Wash your hands regularly. Items should be left on your doorstep.**

**#ViralKindness**