

Psalm 37:1-9

Fret not yourself because of evildoers; be not envious of wrongdoers! For they will soon fade like the grass and wither like the green herb. Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness. Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act. He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday. Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices! Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil. For the evildoers shall be cut off, but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land.

LITTLE TWIGGS: In our weekly gatherings we engage in teaching God's truth and responding through singing, collective prayer and liturgical readings. We believe it is important for our children to **see**, **hear**, and **experience** God's Word and His people responding in worship. In this way we *corporately* seek to raise children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Eph 6:4), so children remain in worship and teaching with the adults.

Here are a few ideas to engage your little ones in the service today:

- Each week sermon passages are listed in the handout; before church on Sunday read the Scripture being taught out loud as a family and pick out key words in the passage.
- Have your children listen and - pat your arm, make a mark, draw a circle, or count the number of times those key words come up in the sermon.
- Incentivize success with rewards or snacks
- Pick up a "Little Twigs" plastic tote in the entry way before church.
- Ask your little one to draw a picture of the things they are hearing in the sermon.
- Have your child help with offering.
- After church take your child to "Little Twigs" where they hear a summary of the sermon, ask them what they learned.

May 4, 2025

Today's Order of Service:

- Call to Worship: Psalm 37:1-9
- Celebration of **Baptism**
- The Steadfast Love of the LORD
- Reading: 1689 Baptist Confession
- Holy Spirit

Teaching: Ruth 1:6-18, "God Writes the Story"

- Collection of Tithes and Offerings
- Christ the Sure and Steady
- Praise to the LORD
- Come thou Fount
- Advent Doxology

Upcoming Sermon Topics and Events: (also see website)

May 4 – The King of the Ordinary; Ruth 1:6-18
May 11- The King of the Ordinary; Ruth 1:19-22
May 18 – The King of the Ordinary; Ruth 2:1-7
May 25 – The King of the Ordinary; Ruth 2:8-13
June 1 – The King of the Ordinary; Ruth 3:1-5
June 8 – The King of the Ordinary; Ruth 3:6-18
June 15 – The King of the Ordinary; Ruth 4:1-12
June 22 – The King of the Ordinary; Ruth 4:13-22

THE WORKSHOP: Men's Bible Study. Meet's the FIRST Sunday morning of every month at 7:30 a.m. Meeting location: 4H Fair Grounds, Church Building. Next Meeting: June 1, 7:30am.

LIVE STREAMING: If you cannot attend in person, you can join us by clicking the button on our home page at **vineandbranch.family**

EMAIL LIST: If you attend regularly and want to be kept updated on church information and events provide your email to Ian Smith; iansmith@ianlabs.com.

MISSIONARIES and MINISTRIES:

Rajan & Helen Nehemiah

Agape Christian Mission – India; Agapemissionindia.org

John & Brittany Bagatya

YWAM Hopeland Base, Uganda; Bagatya.wordpress.com

40 Days for Life: 40daysforlife.com

Please check out <https://vineandbranch.family/> for a more detailed calendar of events, weekly sermon series and study passages, and to access previous sermons on both our website and Spotify.

MAINT POINT: Ruth and Naomi’s strengths and weaknesses, difficulties and loyalty, **move them within and toward** God’s redemptive Story. This demonstrates that we can trust the LORD to fulfill His promises through our everyday relationships, limited sight, and imperfect efforts.

Correction from Last Week: **Yahweh**, the name for the LORD meaning “*I AM*” or “*He who causes to be*,” and signifies God’s eternal, self-existent nature and carries strong connotations of **commitment** and **covenant**. This title for God occurs 21 times in Ruth. The repetition underscores God’s faithful, active presence in fulfilling His promises, even when His work isn’t obvious.

1. Possessing Imperfect Faith (v.6-9)

- Naomi’s faith is a mix of hope and doubt, trust and discouragement, and is painted against the backdrop of God’s quiet, covenant love and tenacious promise keeping
- Naomi decision to return to Judah, is **rooted in aspiration** rather than **certainty**.
- Naomi is sure about her daughter in laws **potential danger** if they continue with her, so she tells Ruth and Orpah to go back to their families of origin
- Naomi believes in the LORD enough to pronounce blessing, but she’s also wrestling with the feeling that the LORD has dealt her a bad hand

LESSON: The LORD absorbs all our limited understanding, imperfect faith, and intertwines our humble efforts into His flawless purposes and redemptive plans.

2. The Transforming Power of Friendship & Loyalty (v. 11-18)

- Ruth made a profound choice, declaring, “*Where you go, I will go... your people shall be my people, and your God my God*” (1:16).
- **Naomi’s resilient faith shaping Ruth’s conversion**, and **Ruth’s steadfastness bolstering Naomi’s trust**—mirrors the covenantal faithfulness (hesed) of YHWH, echoing **The LORD’s enduring loyalty**.
- Together, their friendship became a conduit for God’s mighty redemptive plan, placing Ruth in the lineage of Christ.

Lesson: Trust God, love others, show up, be faithful where you are... and let God write the rest of the story.

3. Hope in everyday living because God is at Work (conclusion)

- **We can trust the Lord, even with our imperfect faith, through the ordinary friendships we nurture, to fulfill His perfect redemptive plan.** Ruth and Naomi’s story shows us that God doesn’t demand unwavering belief or heroic acts—just hearts willing to love and trust, even in the ordinary and the difficult.
- Ruth & Naomi’s friendship **became a vessel for God’s extraordinary work, leading to the lineage of Jesus, our Redeemer.**
- None of us has perfect faith; we all **waver like Naomi** or **step into the unknown like Ruth**. Yet, God uses the everyday moments to weave His story of grace and Redemption.

Lesson: lean into your friendships, trust the Lord through your doubts, and rest in His promise to make all things new through His redemptive promise-keeping love.