

Ordinary Radical | REFLECTION



Welcome to the offline section of the Boaz character study. Give yourself a good 30 minutes to ponder, reflect and be present with the material. In order to do so we encourage you to find a quiet space, a comfortable place.

Now breathe deeply. Take a moment to re-settle. Welcome God again.

Having now spent some time in the Book of Ruth, perhaps we are seeing the character of Boaz with fresh eyes. At a time when the judges ruled, we have a man who is sacrificially generous with his property by letting Ruth glean from it - thus allowing both Ruth and Naomi to rise from their state of poverty. The generosity here is called *Hesed*, which is hard to translate the full sense of the word in English.

In essence *Hesed* is like a covenantal love, loyalty and commitment that is associated with God's character. We can see this in Psalm 103:8 when the psalmist writes, "The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love [*hesed*]. Let this soak in, and re-read this twice more but with deliberate slowness. This *Hesed* not only defines God's characteristic, but it should also be demonstrated in God's

people.

Like the stories we have heard from Boaz, Sydney and others, perhaps we are just coming to realize the agency and the influence we can have in the 4 spheres of: Human capital (persons), Social capital (community), Natural capital (creation), and Financial capital.

Take the remainder of your time to ponder and reflect on the following questions:

- Can you name the influence you have?
- In what ways is God inviting you to have agency in those spheres?

Take some time to sit with this, and when you are ready share your thoughts with God.

Emptiness | Fullness - Art Prompt & Response

As you sit more with the things God is inviting you into we encourage you to respond. On the previous page are paintings by Van Gogh, on the left is "Wheatfield with a Reaper" (1853-1890), on the right is "Noon: Rest from Work after Jean-Francois Millet" (1890). As you look at these paintings, what do you notice? What is sticking out to you?

Is it the colour, or the motion that draws your attention? If you are feeling compelled to



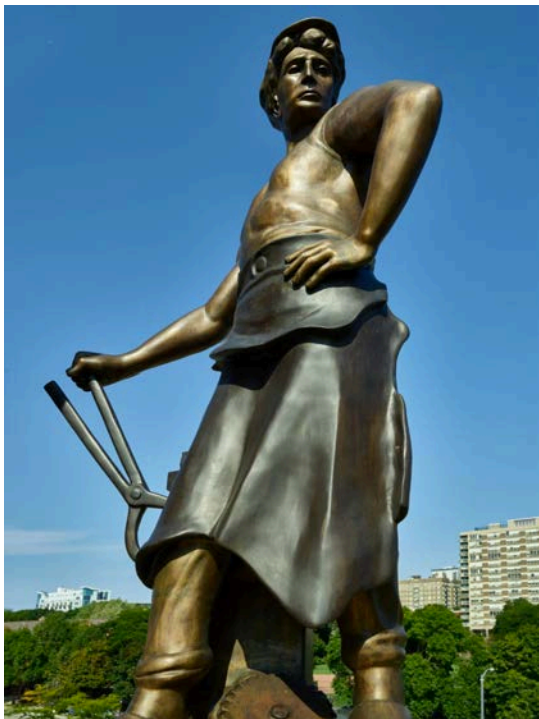
express your reflections in art form: be in song, word, or image we invite you to reflect on the theme of Emptiness to Fullness.

In particular with the character of Boaz, we observe a man living out of sacrificial *hesed* which brings fullness in the lives of Ruth and Naomi, as you reflect on his character and the images provided, we invite you to contemplate these things:

- How can we be bringing fullness to areas that are empty?
- In what ways have you experienced *hesed* in your own life? What did that look like? What did that feel like?
- What does ordinary, yet radical generosity look like to you?

Not feeling like creating art, but still wanting to engage?

In our character group we talked about the impact we can have in 4 spheres: Persons, Community, Creation and Financial. On a piece of paper write down a plan for generous living this summer using the 4 spheres as your basis for *Hesed*. When you are done, we encourage you to share this plan with someone that can keep you accountable.



Rooftop sculpture garden at the Grohmann Museum.

