

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

March 2, 2025



Expectations

No one expected the Houston Texans to win the Super Bowl in their early years. Anyone who is a football fan expected them to play like any other start-up team back in the day. Just suppose during those early years, they won fifty percent of their games. Most commentators would say wonderful things as if they had done great and had a wonderful season. Circumstances shape our expectations. How much money we have, whether our marriages are okay, whether our jobs are great, how we feel, and where we live. We may say incredible things about what God can do, but how much does what we say shape what we expect?

When I think of Abraham, who God told to go to Canaan, whose wife was barren, and who lived during a drought, and Lot's family who was kidnapped, and lived a nomadic life, God shaped their expectations. His circumstances did not change for twenty-five years. I wonder why Abraham did not allow his expectations to be shaped by his circumstances. Noah never saw a flood and never had to build a boat, but his circumstances did not shape his expectations for one hundred years. David had to run from Saul after doing no harm to him; he remained faithful to God, never killing Saul and always seeking to obey God. David did not allow these circumstances to shape his expectations that he would be king. Could you imagine Daniel in the lion's den, Joseph in jail believing in his dreams, not allowing circumstances to determine future expectations? A pregnant woman does not allow the pain, discomfort, and financial pressure to remove her expectation of having a healthy baby. What about us? Do our present circumstances determine our expectations before God?

We believe in verses such as Matthew 19:26, which says, "And looking at them Jesus said to them, 'With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.'" Philippians 4:12-13; "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." Philippians 1:6; "For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus." Matthew 28:20; "teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." If we believe these verses, do they improve, maintain, or remove our expectations as we seek to live humbly before God?

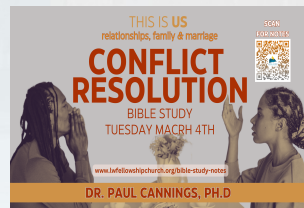
A bird jumps off a wire because it expects to fly. A dog wags its tail because it expects to eat. A baby reaches for its parent because the child expects the parent to lift them. Does God's goodness, faithfulness, love, forgiveness, mercy, and holy Word strengthen our expectations?

UPCOMING Events



LEGACY YOUTH SPRING BREAK

Legacy Youth ages 13-18, join us for fun, food, games, fellowship & more for Spring Break Tues., March 11th—Thurs., March 13th.
March 11th—SERVICE DAY 1:00-6:00 p.m.
March 12th—Youth Lock-In 6:00 p.m.-10:00 a.m.
March 13th—Youth Field Day 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Register at <https://bit.ly/YouthSpringBreak2025> or contact Angela Holmes for more information at angholmes32@gmail.com



CONFLICT RESOLUTION BIBLE STUDY TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2025 12& 7 P.M.

During this month of focusing on relationships, family, and marriage, join us for special Bible Study topics related to this series. This upcoming Tuesday, don't miss Dr. Paul Cannings' Bible Study on Conflict Resolution. To view or download your bible study notes visit www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/bible-study-notes



THIS IS US SERIES—MARCH 2025 RELATIONSHIPS, FAMILY & MARRIAGE

Join us during the month of March for the "This Is Us" series as we focus on relationships, family, and marriage. Attend Services and Life Application classes every Sunday and Bible Studies and Center for Christian Living classes on Tuesdays. As John would say "And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory (God in His full excellence exposed in day-to-day life), as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14) This series takes the Word to your home, so that you grow through the application of God's Word as it relates to relationship challenges.



LEADERSHIP TRAINING SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 2025 8:30 AM

All elders, pastors, deacons, ministry leaders and coordinators, minister, and staff, join us for our first Leadership Training of 2025. Leaders your attendance is required as we plan, execute vision, and prepare for our year of Light In Truth (LIT). Please register at <https://bit.ly/LWFLLeadershipMarch2025> or on the events page of the website.



JOIN THE LEGACY YOUTH BAND APP

Legacy Youth parents and youth, join the **BAND APP** to stay connected. WE have an exciting year planned for our youth and we don't want you to miss a single event or activity. Use the link below to join:

<https://band.us/n/a8adA2G6V4fdO>

For more information, contact **Angela Holmes** at angholmes32@gmail.com



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

"Are You Ready?"

Ruth 2:5-6, 8-13

Click "Sermon Notes" on the Website

Call to Discipleship

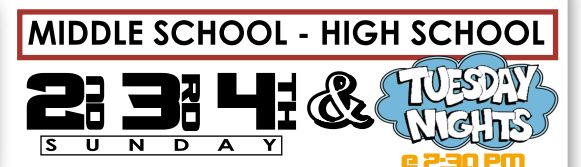
Please remain seated at this time

Visitor's Welcome

Benediction

Children are now required to check-in upon arrival. Please report to the registration desk located in the children's wing.

Infants—6th grade



Are You Ready?
Ruth 2:5-6, 8-13


A. God’s Providential Hook-Up (Ruth 2:5-6):

- 1. Boaz initiated the conversations with no plans ever to stop inquiring about Ruth.
- 2. Boaz finds someone whose opinion he can trust (a person he placed in charge of the reapers; a person who would oversee that no one touches Ruth) and is fully exposed to the issue when he repeatedly inquires about Ruth.
- 3. The trusted servant did not just call her woman; he carefully distinguished Ruth from Moabitess. In other words, she is the lowest of the low, born from an incestuous relationship. The only thing that gave her value was that she was with Naomi, a widow. The Mosaic Law protected widows.

B. Real Attraction (Ruth 2:8-13):

- 1. Boaz spoke directly to Ruth without plans to stop communicating with her. This is after he clearly understood she was Moabitess and a person who did not neglect a distressed widow.
- 2. Upon hearing what Ruth did for Namoi, Boaz persistently emphasized to Ruth that she must not go towards another field. These fields were only separated by hedges. Being a Moabitess, looked upon as trash, he immediately offered her protection. She was a widow taking care of another widow.
- 3. Boaz made a concerted effort to communicate firm orders to all his staff that no one have any physical or sexual contact with Ruth. Not only did Boaz protect her by telling her not to stray into another field, but he also made sure no one on his staff treated her like trash because she was a Moabitess.
- 4. For a relationship to go to the next level, a woman should not become vulnerable, especially since, in most cases, she is physically weaker than a man unless he, on his initiative, demonstrates he would protect her (not giving anything or asking for anything in return), be kind towards her and make sure she is cared for just like any reasonable human being should do (Philippians 2:1-5; this is what God requires of him as a husband so a woman needs to see this before she becomes a wife; Ephesians 5:25-31).
- 5. Ruth did not just accept Boaz’s kindness and kept gleaning; she continuously kept asking him why he completely engaged in being purposeful, with all the other maidens in the field, about vividly having his entire staff graciously serve her. Gracious meaning, she did not earn anything, and he is continuously, with no hesitation, generously helping her take care of her needs. He said, ‘Since I am a foreigner’ to emphasize Boaz’s generosity.
- 6. Boaz explained to Ruth that it was not because of how she looked or how hard she worked. He extended favor because of how, from her own heart, on her initiative, she would tirelessly labor, in the hot sun, for a person who she was not related to anymore and was helpless and destitute.
- 7. Because of what Boaz learned about Ruth and because of how diligently she worked in the fields, Boaz desires that God would obligate Himself to provide restitution to Ruth for all she sacrificially did.
- 8. Boaz sees Ruth as surrendering her life to the Lord God. Not just to walk in His ways as she cares for Naomi but to also experience His spiritual protection.
- 9. When God reigns, people find compassion, grace, and moral support, no matter how the relationship may have begun or the circumstances of those involved. This refreshes relationships and makes them whole once again.
- 10. Boaz’s willingness to express his innermost and most profound feelings, taking the time to understand who Ruth was, and faithfully committing to treating her with respect created a spiritual and emotional connection. This causes them to be ready for a great future together.






THIS IS US

relationships, family & marriage

Sermon Series by Dr. Paul Cannings



THIS IS US

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CONFLICT RESOLUTION

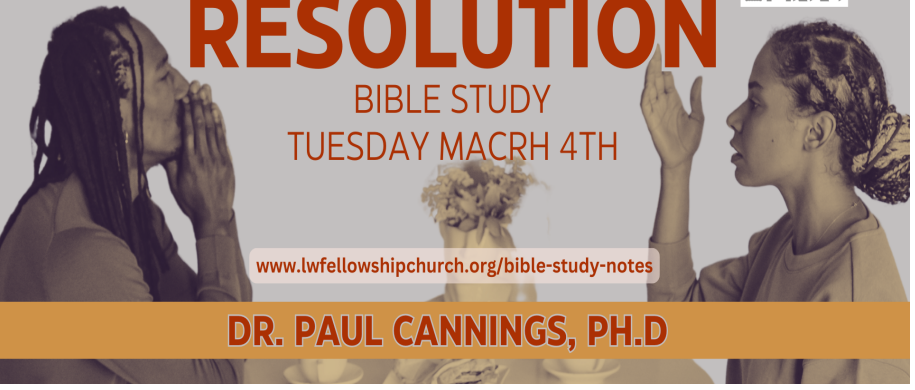
BIBLE STUDY
TUESDAY MACRH 4TH

www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/bible-study-notes

DR. PAUL CANNINGS, PH.D

SCAN FOR NOTES





PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Judah David & family, Sylvia Edwards & family, Jeffrey and Charlotte Allen & family, Lula Hayes & family, Robert James & family, Michael Harris & family, the family of Susie Farley, Joselyn McClain & family, and Melvin Bates & family.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Eric White, Pat Crawford, Tanisha Collins, Jon Heard, Rutha Patrick, Kevin Carey, Sherri Love, Elizabeth Clarke, Clara Williams, Kathryn Ford-Cheatham, Anthony Thomas, Beverly Austin, Joshua Williams, Ruby Hunter, Elizabeth Bean, Patsy Gatterson, Joyce Newsome, Arleatha Housley, Patrina Johnson, Cheryl Walker, Walter Banks, Sheryle Crowe, Arnie Glover, Clarence Coleman, Diana Doyle, Shannon Rice, Freddie Reid, Janie Buchanan, Yolanda Barnes, Rochelle Carter Brown, Terrance Ford, Robert Edwards, Jessie Austin, Fred Lewis, and Evelyn

ARE YOU READY?

Ruth 2:5-6, 8-13

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7350 TC JESTER BOULEVARD HOUSTON, TEXAS 77088 281-260-7402