

Hope comes to unexpected

Salmon the father of Boaz whose mother was _____...
Matthew 1:5a (NIV)

The women said to Naomi: "Praise be to the LORD, who this day has not left you without a guardian-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel! ¹⁵ He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. For your daughter-in-law, who loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has given him birth." ¹⁶ Then Naomi took the child in her arms and cared for him.
Ruth 4:14-16 (NIV)

And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse,
the father of _____. Ruth 4:17 (NIV)

Then Boaz announced to the elders and all the people, "Today you are witnesses that I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelek, Kilion and Mahlon. ¹⁰ I have also acquired Ruth the Moabite..."

Ruth is the story of a young woman with a radical commitment of faith to God, who journeyed to Bethlehem and there she gave birth to a child that would change the world.

Christmas is the story of a young woman with a radical commitment of faith to God, who journeyed to Bethlehem and there she gave birth to a child that would change the world.

"The Christmas message is that there is hope for a ruined humanity--hope of pardon, hope of peace with God, hope of glory--because at the Father's will Jesus became poor, and was born in a stable so that thirty years later He might hang on a cross. (J.L. Packer)

Sermons available online @
www.concordiawesleyan.com/sermons



May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
Romans 15:13 (NIV)

The Story of Hope:

Hope shows up in _____ places.

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. ² The man's name was Elimelek, his wife's name was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to Moab and lived there. Ruth 1:1-2 (NIV)

In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit.
Judges 21:25 (NIV)

Bethlehem = House of _____.

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah... Ruth 1:a (NIV)

In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit.
Judges 21:25 (NIV)

Elimelek = My _____ is _____.

So a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. Ruth 1:1 (NIV)

Naomi = _____ or sweet.

Mahlon = _____ Kilion = _____

Now Elimelek, Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴ They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, ⁵ both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband. Ruth 1:3-5 (NIV)

So the two women went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they arrived in Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them, and the women exclaimed, "Can this be Naomi?" Ruth 1:19 (NIV)

*O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the year
Are met in Thee tonight*

"The Christian religion, is, in the long run, a thing of unspeakable hope. But it does not begin in hope; it begins in dismay."
(C.S. Lewis)

Hope comes in unexpected

_____.
"Don't call me Naomi," she told them. "Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter. ²¹ I went away full, but the LORD has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi? The LORD has afflicted me; the Almighty has brought misfortune upon me." ²² So Naomi returned from Moab, accompanied by her daughter-in-law Ruth, the young Moabite woman. They arrived in Bethlehem in late spring, at the beginning of the barley harvest. Ruth 1: 20-22 (NIV)

Mara = _____

But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. ¹⁷ Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me." ¹⁸ When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.

Ruth 1:16-18 (NIV)

"The experience of loss does not need to be the defining moment of our story. The defining moment can be our response to the loss. The story doesn't have to be about the loss; the story could be about our response to the loss."
Gerald Sittser (A Grace Disguised)

Hope comes through unexpected

_____.
Now Naomi had a relative on her husband's side, a man of standing from the clan of Elimelek, whose name was Boaz. Ruth 2:1 (NIV)

So Boaz said to Ruth, "My daughter, listen to me. Don't go and glean in another field and don't go away from here. Stay here with the women who work for me. ⁹ Watch the field where the men are harvesting, and follow along after the women. I have told the men not to lay a hand on you. And whenever you are thirsty, go and get a drink from the water jars the men have filled." ¹⁰ At this, she bowed down with her face to the ground. She asked him, "Why have I found such favor in your eyes that you notice me—a foreigner?" ¹¹ Boaz replied, "I've been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband—how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with a people you did not know before. ¹² May the LORD repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge." ¹³ "May I continue to find favor in your eyes, my lord," she said. "You have put me at ease by speaking kindly to your servant—though I do not have the standing of one of your servants."

Ruth 2:8-13 (NIV)

So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When he made love to her, the LORD enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son.

Ruth 4:13 (NIV)