



**St Helen's
St Edmund's**

Finding Hope Under Bethlehem Skies

The Cost of Christmas - Ruth Chapter 4:1-12

Start by reading Ruth chapter 4:1-12 praying that God would be at work by his Spirit during your time together.

1. Christmas is costly! Households on average spend just over £1800. How many of the top 10 spending cities in the UK can you name (see next page for the answers)?
2. This half of the chapter focuses on the question who will redeem (rescue) Ruth & Naomi? It was the role of a guardian redeemer to rescue family members in difficulty. In chapter 3 we find out there is a closer relative than Boaz who's duty it was to rescue them. Look again at verses 3-6. Initially this man is willing to help. What makes him change his mind?
3. Can you see the contrast between this unnamed guardian redeemer and Boaz in verses 6-10?
4. Boaz is a model to us of one willing to take a cost to himself to freely rescue Ruth & Naomi. He points us to Jesus. How does Jesus 'endanger his estate' to freely rescue us? Look up Philippians 2:5-8 and 2 Corinthians 8:9 to see the cost Jesus takes on himself to freely rescue us.



5. Many of the key characters we meet at Christmas were crystal clear Jesus comes as a rescuer. The angels for example can't say it enough - "Today in the town of David a Saviour has been" Luke 2: 11, "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins" Matthew 1:21. Why is it so important that we grasp Jesus is our Saviour and the Saviour of the World? What difference will it make to hold onto this truth?

