**Sermon Guide – Sept. 20, 2020 – IN Support**

**Ruth 2:19-23**

**19**Her mother-in-law said to her, “Where did you glean today? And where have you worked? Blessed be the man who took notice of you.” So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked, and said, “The name of the man with whom I worked today is Boaz.” **20**Then Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, “Blessed be he by the Lord, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead!” Naomi also said to her, “The man is a relative of ours, one of our nearest kin.”[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ruth+2%3A19-23&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-7170a)] **21**Then Ruth the Moabite said, “He even said to me, ‘Stay close by my servants, until they have finished all my harvest.’” **22**Naomi said to Ruth, her daughter-in-law, “It is better, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, otherwise you might be bothered in another field.” **23**So she stayed close to the young women of Boaz, gleaning until the end of the barley and wheat harvests; and she lived with her mother-in-law.

Naomi and her daughter-in-law Ruth were widows, meaning their husbands had died. Widows in biblical times were marginalized – they had no rights, no way to make money to support themselves. Who would you consider marginalized in our society today? What are some ways that widows today might feel they are outsiders?

IN Support is our theme today. How, when have you given support (of any kind) to another person? How did you feel about being supportive? How did the other person feel (do you think)?

What needs do you see in your sphere of influence? (That’s the area where you live and work, go to school, your circle of friends, etc.)

What ideas do you have to address those needs?