- **God's providence –** ongoing and active sustaining, governing, and purposeful care of God for His creation in general, and His people specifically

- **God's love –** His uncompromising, unrelenting commitment to the well-being of His people

- **God's love is expressed through His providential care**

- God's providence – primary way He work in our lives; need eyes of faith to see:
  - So we can cooperate
  - Because providence is a primary expression of God's love for us



Naomi –

- Experiences difficult circumstances - not her fault
  - Tragic reversal
    - From full – married, 2 sons, living in Bethlehem
    - To empty – widowed, both sons dead, living in Moab
  - Bleak prospects for future; life is bitter

- Like Naomi – wait faithfully for God to act



Jonah -

- Experiences difficult circumstances - due to his resistance to God
  - Great storm
  - 3 days/nights in belly of whale
  - Scorching east wind
  - Blazing sun

- Pride – exerting independence from God
  - Ch1 – disobeying assignment; choosing his will over God's will
  - Ch4 - opposes work of God; choosing his values/judgments over God's

- Like Jonah in whale – repent



Ruth/Boaz –

- Tangible expressions of God's love for Naomi

- Love for Naomi cost them
  - Ruth -
    - Lessened her chances of remarriage by returning to Bethlehem
    - Risked physical harm when gleaning
    - Risked future widowhood in foreign land by marrying Boaz



Ruth/Boaz -

- Tangible expressions of God's love for Naomi
- Love for Naomi cost them
  - Boaz –
    - Money to redeem Elimelech's land
    - Money to support Naomi/Ruth
    - Firstborn son to Naomi
    - Risked losing his estate to Elimelech's family if he doesn't have multiple sons
- Love for others will cost us
  - Don't say 'yes' because it costs
  - Cost isn't sufficient reason to say 'no'

