

May 4th, 2025 – Ruth 1 – Broken, Bitter, But Still a Blessing

This guide is designed to give helpful hints in preparing for your group discussion.

Quick Review

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything that particularly challenged you from this sermon? Anything you didn't understand, agree with or connect with?

Introduction

Has there ever been a time in your life where you felt like your life was completely coming off “the tracks?” What made you feel this way? What circumstances were going on?

Digging In

Question 1: Read Ruth 1:1-7. We see in these verses that Naomi's life was starting to fall apart. Naomi lost her husband, then lost two of her sons. Naomi was then forced to move back to Judah. There were a lot of things going wrong in Naomi's life! Why do you think most of the time in our life as Christians, we don't think we will experience problems or pain? Why do you think it is hard to have a Godly response when terrible things happen to you? How have you experienced this in your own life?

Question 2: Read Ruth 1:8-22. We see Naomi's response to all these things. She has lost her Godly perspective and is bitter and empty (v.20-21). She is associating these bad things happenings to her as God's calamity towards her. We will see later in the book that this is not the case, but part of God's ultimate story to bring redemption. How have you seen this in your own life? You have associated something bad happening to God punishing you? Why is that sometimes the wrong way to look at hard situations?

Question 3: Ruth 1:16-17. During Naomi's pain and grief, her daughter-in-law Ruth, has a desire to follow the Lord's plan for her life. In these verses we see Ruth's desire to stick with Naomi and to go where she goes, stay where she stays, and worship the Lord together. Have you ever had a friend, family member or close relationship point you back to God's plan for your life? How do Christ-centered relationships keep you on track to God's plan? Can you remember a time where someone has reminded you of one of God's promises in the middle of deep pain and loss?

Read Genesis 17:7-8, Exodus 6:7, 2 Corinthians 6:16.

Praise / Prayer Requests

Pray for your group with these things in mind:

Adoration – How can I praise God for what this teaches me?

Confession – What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?

Thanksgiving – How can I thank God for what Jesus has done?

Supplication – What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?