



RUTH

Ruth • November 2023

Overview

Where is God in the day-to-day details of our lives? Does He care about my job? Does He care about my disappointments? These are questions we all ask from time to time. We wonder how interested God is in the little things of our lives. Ruth's is the story of God working away in the unseen, a God who cares about our suffering, who takes an interest in our work, in our character, and in how we treat those around us. God is sovereign over every detail of our lives and weaving it all together for our good and His glory.

Outline

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| 1. God In Our Suffering | Ruth 1 |
| 2. God In The Little Things | Ruth 2 |
| 3. God In The Kindness of Others | Ruth 3-4 |

RUTH

Week 1 • 12 Nov 2023 • Ruth 1

This week's key theme: God In Our Suffering

1. Has anyone had a moment where God so clearly came through for them? Share it with your group.

2. Read Ruth 1:1-5.
 - a. Write down the different events that Naomi suffered in these five verses, then discuss what she might have experienced/felt/thought after all that. (cf Ruth 1:20-21)

 - b. What do you make of Ruth's statement in 1:16-18? Returning home, like Orpah, meant she could easily remarry. Why would she choose widowhood in a foreign country?

3. Naomi laments and complains deeply in 1:20-21.
 - a. How does her complaint still show faith in God's sovereignty?

 - b. What does Naomi miss in her complaint? (cf 1:18)



4. A clear belief in the secular West is that pain and suffering are something to be mitigated or avoided at all costs.
 - a. In what ways do you see this playing out in our society?
 - b. In what ways does 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 contrast this?

5. So often in our suffering, we are so focused on our personal pain that we can't see where God might be at work - we can't see Ruth standing right there in front of us.
 - a. Are you going through something right now where you can't see the 'Ruth' right in front of you?

6. Sometimes, we need our community to surround us and comfort us in times of suffering, but also to fix our gaze on Jesus and remind us that nothing is wasted in God's economy.
 - a. If anyone in your life group is going through hardship, spend some time lamenting with them, praying for them and encouraging them.

RUTH

Week 2 • 19 Nov 2023 • Ruth 2

This week's key theme: God In The Little Things

1. Share about the most mundane, boring, insignificant job you have ever done.
 - a. What did you learn about yourself or God in that season?

2. Read Ruth 2:1-9
 - a. What do you notice about Ruth's and Boaz's character from these verses?
 - b. What must have been clear to Boaz about Ruth for him to single her out from the other women?

3. The Old Testament law had provision for the poorest of Jewish society (Lev 23:22).
 - a. How does Boaz go above and beyond in his generosity? (2:14-23)
 - b. How is Boaz's generosity a signpost of Jesus' call for us not to simply try to follow moral rules but to live generous lives? (Matt 5:17-20)

4. Ruth was faithful and diligent in the simplest tasks - harvesting barley, and God used this to get Boaz's attention.



- a. Where in your life do you feel you are “harvesting barley”?
 - b. Are you being diligent and faithful in the little things?
 - c. What do you hope God will do in your barley harvest seasons?
5. What messages/value does secular culture give to people performing the lowest-rung or least noticeable jobs in our society?
- a. What do you think these roles are? Garbage collectors? Stay-at-home mums? Road workers?
 - b. Do you SEE the dignity of working well in the roles these people are performing?
 - c. What do you think about them in your heart?
6. In times when it feels like we are stuck in the mundane grind of work/life/parenting/study, it can be easy to lose focus or wonder if God really cares about these little details.
- a. What encouragement have you taken from Ruth and Boaz in this story?
 - b. How can you encourage one another to persevere and be faithful in the little things in these seasons of life?

RUTH

Week 3 • 26 Nov 2023 • Ruth 3-4

This week's key theme: God In The Kindness of Others

1. Share experiences of someone who has come through for you in an incredible way or totally surprised you with their kindness or generosity.
2. Read Ruth 3:1-4.
 - a. How does Naomi show she hasn't given up on God redeeming her situation?
 - b. What do you notice about Boaz's response to Ruth's marriage proposal in 3:12-13?
3. Character matters to God. Boaz marvels at Ruth's character in 3:11, and his own integrity is on show in 3:12-13 and through chapter 4.
 - a. This wasn't an easy thing for Boaz to do. We see he put his own estate at risk (4:6) by marrying Ruth, and yet he follows through on his promise. How does Psalm 15 (especially v4) speak to the importance of character, like Boaz?
4. Through taking the initiative and not expecting God to snap his fingers and roll out the red carpet, Naomi sets up the marriage of

Ruth to Boaz, which ends up producing the line to King David - and Jesus himself.

- a. What encouragement do you take from seeing God at work through the kindness and integrity of Boaz, Ruth and Naomi?
5. In what ways do you see Boaz as being a forerunner of Christ? What similarities are there in his character, as well as what he did to redeem Ruth?
 6. Through this short series in Ruth, what encouragement have you taken to consider how you see God at work in your life?
 - a. In the hard times
 - b. In the little things
 - c. In how you treat and are treated by others
 7. Spend time together in prayer, asking God to keep your eyes wide open to seeing his goodness in your life.