

Destined for Redemption

AN ADVENT STUDY IN THE BOOK OF RUTH



GETTING STARTED

What are some of your favorite holiday traditions?

QUESTION ONE

In this week's passage we find ourselves introduced to a difficult situation that goes from bad to worse. Why do you think God includes stories like this in the Bible? How do these stories impact your faith in times where it's difficult to trust God?

QUESTION TWO

In verse 1 we see that Elimelech and his family left the Promised Land to--unsuccessfully--look for a better life. Where have you been tempted to run from your problems? Or struggled with a "grass is always greener on the other side of the fence" mentality? In situations where you acting on those impulses, what was the outcome?

FOLLOW UP: Are there any areas you're tempted right now to avoid or withdraw from that God may be inviting you to step into?

QUESTION THREE

A version of the word *turn* is found 15 times in the book of Ruth and 12 of those times is in the first chapter. The Hebrew word for *turn* can be used figuratively to describe mental, emotional, or spiritual reversals. It can refer to apostasy (turning away from God) and also repentance. What "turns" do you see take place in chapter 1?

FOLLOW UP: What spiritually *turns* have you taken in your life?

FOLLOW UP: Who was there for you during in those situations?

QUESTION FOUR

How does Ruth's faithfulness in verses 16-17 compare with Naomi's doubt in verses 12-13? What does Ruth give up in order to remain faithful to Naomi?

FOLLOW UP: According to verse 18, how does Ruth's faithfulness affect Naomi?

FOLLOW UP: How might an understanding of this passage impact how we interact with others in our own lives?

QUESTION FIVE

It can be difficult to express or articulate our circumstances when suffering or enduring hardship. Read verses 19-22/ What is Naomi's assessment of her situation? Who does she blame? Without overthinking it, how do you feel about Naomi's reaction?

FOLLOW UP: Are you as honest about how you feel in difficult situations? Why or why not?

FOLLOW UP: What might the consequences be if we consistently put off dealing with bitterness?



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QUESTION SIX

Compare and contrast the first and last verses of the chapter. What is the significance of their arrival taking place during the barley harvest?

FOLLOW UP: The writer of Ruth grants us, the reader, a glimpse into God's impending providence for Ruth & Naomi before they themselves are privy to it; what encouragement might that give you for your current circumstances?

PRAYER & APPLICATION

Prayer and providence find themselves woven through the story of Ruth--and our lives too! Keeping this truth in mind, take some time together to bring your needs to God in prayer.

Spend a few moments thinking through the problems you currently face, then take the time to read through the following passages:

Psalm 17:6-8 | Psalm 36:7-8 | Psalm 57:1 | Psalm 91:1-4 | Philippians 4:6-7

As you read through the text, ask God to grant you comfort, strength, and guidance.

