

THE IMPACT OF A GODLY WOMAN

Ruth 1-4 (Select Passages)

Pain and Loss are the Reality of Life on This Side of Heaven

- *“During the time of the judges, there was a famine in the land. A man left Bethlehem in Judah with his wife and two sons to stay in the territory of Moab for a while. 2 The man’s name was Elimelech, and his wife’s name was Naomi. The names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They entered the fields of Moab and settled there. 3 Naomi’s husband, Elimelech, died, and she was left with her two sons. 4 Her sons took Moabite women as their wives: one was named Orpah and the second was named Ruth. After they lived in Moab about ten years, 5 both Mahlon and Chilion also died, and the woman was left without her two children and without her husband.” (Ruth 1:1-5)*
- **Even the faithful followers of the Lord will endure hardships in life.**
- **Faith in God does not exempt us from pain, but it gives us strength to survive what should have destroyed us.**

The Pain and Losses You Experience in Life Don’t Have to Define You

- *“No, my daughters, my life is much too bitter for you to share, because the Lord’s hand has turned against me.’ 14 Again they wept loudly, and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.” (Ruth 1:13-14)*
- **What happened to you may have wounded your heart, but it does not have the authority to determine your identity.**
- *“Don’t call me Naomi. Call me Mara,’ she answered, ‘for the Almighty has made me very bitter. 21 I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the Lord has opposed me, and the Almighty has afflicted me?’” (Ruth 1:20-21)*
- **Because Christ lives in us and will never leave us, we can find joy and peace knowing that whatever we suffer now is only temporary.**

- *“We are afflicted in every way but not crushed; we are perplexed but not in despair; 9 we are persecuted but not abandoned; we are struck down but not destroyed.” (2 Corinthians 4:8-9)*
- **Your struggle may shape your story, but God’s grace has the final word over your life.**
- *“And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, because we know that affliction produces endurance, 4 endurance produces proven character, and proven character produces hope. 5 This hope will not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.” (Romans 5:3-5)*

You May Not Understand in the Moment the Impact You Are Having on Other Young Women and Girls

- *“Naomi said, ‘Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods. Follow your sister-in-law.’ 16 But Ruth replied: ‘Don’t plead with me to abandon you or to return and not follow you. For wherever you go, I will go, and wherever you live, I will live; your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. 17 Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord punish me, and do so severely, if anything but death separates you and me.’” (Ruth 1:15-17)*
- **A godly woman often leaves fingerprints on lives she never realizes she touched.**
- *“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)*
- **Someone is watching how you walk through hardship, and your faithfulness may become the blueprint for their future.**

Godly Women Use Their Experience and Wisdom to Invest in Younger Women and Girls

- *“Ruth’s mother-in-law Naomi said to her, ‘My daughter, shouldn’t I find rest for you, so that you will be taken care of? 2 Now isn’t Boaz our relative? Haven’t you been working with his female servants? This evening he will be winnowing barley on the threshing floor. 3 Wash, put on perfumed oil, and wear your best clothes. Go down to the threshing floor,*

but don't let the man know you are there until he has finished eating and drinking. 4 When he lies down, notice the place where he's lying, go in and uncover his feet, and lie down. Then he will explain to you what you should do." (Ruth 3:1-4)

- **A wise woman does not just live for herself; she reaches back to lift the next generation forward.**
- **God never wastes a season of pain; He often turns your greatest lessons into someone else's survival guide.**

God Can Turn Your Deepest Pain and Disappointments into Great Blessings

- *"Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. He slept with her, and the Lord granted conception to her, and she gave birth to a son. 14 The women said to Naomi, 'Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you without a family redeemer today. May his name become well known in Israel. 15 He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. Indeed, your daughter-in-law, who loves you and is better to you than seven sons, has given birth to him."* (Ruth 4:13-15)
- **A godly woman understands that storms are a part of life, but she refuses to let the storm separate her from the Savior.**
- **The same place where you cried the hardest can become the place where God blesses you the greatest."**
- **God specializes in taking broken chapters of your life and turning them into beautiful testimonies of redemption.**

CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION

Observation:

- According to Ruth 1:1–5, what hardships and losses did Naomi and Ruth experience?
- In Ruth 1:15–17, what commitment did Ruth make to Naomi, and what does it reveal about Ruth's character and faith?
- What guidance and wisdom does Naomi give Ruth in Ruth 3:1–4?
- According to Ruth 4:13–15, how did God ultimately provide restoration and blessing for Naomi and Ruth?

Understanding

- Naomi experienced deep grief and disappointment. How can pain and hardship shape a person's view of God, themselves, and others?
- Why is it important to remember that faith in God does not exempt us from suffering, but helps sustain us through it?
- Ruth's loyalty and faithfulness had a lasting impact far beyond what she could see at the time. Who has been a godly influence in your life, and how did they impact you?
- The Pastor said, "A godly woman often leaves fingerprints on lives she never realizes she touched." Why do you think we sometimes underestimate our influence on others?
- Naomi used her experiences and wisdom to guide Ruth. What are some practical ways women—and believers in general—can encourage, guide, and support the next generation?
- How does Ruth's story encourage you to trust God during seasons of disappointment, uncertainty, or waiting?

Loving Outward:

- Who do you need to share the gospel with this week?
- Who do you need to follow-up with regarding the gospel?
- Who are you bringing to church next Sunday?