

Ruth: Hardship to Harvest

When “Life” Happens: Finding God in a Messy World

INTRODUCTION

A. The Book of Ruth

B. Preliminary Concerns

C. What’s Your Story/Hardship?

TEXT: Ruth 1.1-5

V. 1 The Setting

1. The Fertile Crescent
2. The Cycle of Judge
3. The Famine
4. The Choice: Sojourning in Moab (Gen 19; Num 25)

V. 2 The Characters

Elimelech -
Naomi -

Mahlon -
Chilion -

Vs. 3-5 The Plot

GOD’S WORD FOR TODAY: What’s your story? What keeps you away from God?

1. When the World is a mess...HE IS **WITH YOU**

2. When there’s famine and death ... HE IS **FOR YOU**

3. In your personal choices...HE IS **MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS**

ACTION POINTS:

- **SUBMIT** to the author of our story
- **SEEK** His presence everyday to stay on same page.
- **SOJOURN** in the mystery of free-will and sovereignty

Seaside Finances			
Weekly Goal	\$22,195	Monthly Goal	\$95,500
Received Last Week	\$16,274	Received in Mar.	\$72,757

seaside@seasidehb.org- 714 536.3391

www.seasidehb.org

Growth Group Questions

Sunday April 24th, 2022

1. What stood out to you from Mike's overview of the story of Ruth?
2. Ruth is placed right after Judges. See Judges 17:6, 18:1, 19:1, 21:25
What do we know about the story of Judges and how would this affect our reading of Ruth? Why is it important for us to study the Hebrew Bible? See Romans 15:4. The books of the bible are intentionally placed in a particular order that is not necessarily chronological. Why is it important to understand the sequence of the books we are studying?
The following video will give your group important context for understanding narrative nature of the Bible:
[Watch: The Story of the Bible Intro Video | BibleProject](#) (video length 5:38)
3. Watch this video about literary styles in the bible.
[Watch: Biblical Literary Styles Bible Intro Video | BibleProject](#) (video length 5:28)
How does reading Ruth as a narrative change what you hear in the story? What is the importance of understanding the literary style of Ruth as a narrative?
4. How can we benefit from digging into the cultural context of the book of Ruth? Share any experiences you may have had when understanding Biblical cultural context has helped shape your personal connection or interpretation of scripture.
5. Authors used words that were culturally recognized and told parts of the story without having to say much. For example, Moab had a deep history and bad blood with the Israelites. When the author mentions that they went to Moab, the original audience knew that messy back story. Look at the story of Lot in Genesis 19:36-38. See also Numbers 21-25, where the Moabites prevent the Israelites from traveling through their land. How does knowing the history change how you read the story? What do you think is the significance of Naomi and Elimelech going to Moab?
6. This story starts with a lot of pain. The Bible doesn't just talk about the good stuff; there is a lot of suffering and tragedy. It seems that God is not afraid of entering into the pain and suffering of this world. What does this teach us about the character of God? What is there to learn about the relationship God seeks to have with creation?