

# Ruth 2026

## *Love, Loyalty, Redemption*

Fairview Missionary Church | Angola, IN

Scripture: Ruth

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One of the joys of my job is the opportunity and privilege that I have to sit down with young couples and do premarital counseling. As my own children have gotten older, my wife has been able to join me sometimes as we counsel these young couples together, and it's very fun to be able to do that with my life. It is life-giving and exciting to see these young couples beginning a new life together.

I love hearing about their dreams and their plans for the future, and there truly is a real innocence in their belief of the future. This month, my wife and I will celebrate 22 years of marriage. This means that we've also been at Fairview for 22 years since we came only a few weeks after getting married, and we now both have officially been married longer than we were single. We've crossed that threshold now in our lives.

And if we have learned nothing else over the last 22 years, we have learned at least one thing. Life doesn't always turn out the way you plan or think it will. In fact, we have learned it almost never does turn out the way that you plan or think it will. It is hard as somebody doing premarital counseling to have to break this news to a young, engaged couple, but I believe it is one of the most important things that I can tell them.

And honestly, most of the young couples that I do premarital counseling with are wearing such large rose-colored glasses that they just say, "Okay," and move on. I have a pastor friend who uses a phrase that has spoken to me. He says, "I don't trust anyone who doesn't walk with a limp." The point being, if you haven't experienced brokenness yet, I'm probably not going to ask you for advice.

I don't trust anyone who doesn't walk with a limp. Why? Because hurt, loss, pain, heartache are all a part of life. And you and I must acknowledge that we live in a broken and in a fallen world, and as such, there is not a single person here who is going to make it out alive. Every single one of us will experience death. And I believe it is good for these young couples that I do premarital counseling with.

It's good for them to dream and be excited for the future, but I also do my best to prepare them for the real world. Today, you and I are going to start a series that's going to take us through this short book in the Old Testament of Ruth. There are actually only two books in the entire Bible with a woman's name as the title, and they are both in the Old Testament. One is Ruth, and the second is Esther, these two books.

In the book of Ruth, we are going to be introduced to three women who experience the sting of living in this fallen and broken world. I am sure that all three of these women had visions and dreams and hopes of what life was going to look like, but not a single one of them will walk the path that they hoped for.

Everyone will experience the brokenness and the pain of living in a fallen world, and their stories will share with us the struggles of real life. But their stories will also remind us that even in the unexpected storms of life, God has a master plan, that God is still in control, He is still in charge, even in our seasons of storms, and God can and will redeem that which is broken and make all things new.

This is the God that we serve. Now I know that there are many here today in this room, many that are watching online, and I'm sure many that are listening on the radio that are currently just trying to survive the storm they are in today. You either come today or you've joined us online or even tuned in on the radio, and even as we talk about this idea of a broken world, you say to yourself, "Pastor, I definitely understand what you're talking about." You come today because you are broken.

You are literally just trying to make it through the next day, and it is good for us to be reminded that we are in this together, that you are not alone, that you are not the first person nor the last person that is going to experience the hurts of this broken world, but also to be reminded that there is hope, that there is hope that we serve a God who is loving and caring and will walk with us through those seasons.

Now, before we jump into the story of Esther, I always think it is a good idea for us to do the best we can to transport our minds back to the scene and the story and the place and the setting where it takes place. And so I'm going to share with you some of this background of Ruth before we jump in. Currently, the story is going to take place in the Middle East, specifically in the towns of Bethlehem, which you have probably heard of, and Moab.

Bethlehem is on the western side, as you can see on the map, of the Jordan River in modern-day Israel. It's also on the west side of the Dead Sea or the Salt Sea, while Moab is on the eastern side of the Jordan River and the Dead Sea or Salt Sea, modern-day Jordan. So we're going to be traveling between Israel and Jordan, countries that are right next to each other, and not surprisingly, much like today, there is almost always hostility in this region.

The people don't get along, they fight with each other, they have different ideologies, and have had different ideologies for a long time. Most of you understand the nation of Israel and where Israel came from, but I also want to share with you about those of Moab. The Moabites came from a man named Moab, which if you go back into the Old Testament, you will recognize that name.

He was the son of Lot, who was Abraham's nephew and his eldest daughter, meaning Moab was the son of Lot, and I know this is weird, but I'm just sharing with you what Scripture says. Lot had relations with his oldest daughter, and their child was Moab. This is where Moab comes from. And so these are the Moabites, and the Moabites did not get along with the Israelites. They always were fighting.

If you remember, again, going back to the Old Testament, Moab hired a man named Balam to curse Israel as they were marching towards the promised land through the wilderness in the desert. He wanted them to be cursed because he heard of what they were doing and that they were coming. The time for the story is taking place during the season of the judges in Israel.

So the Israelites have made it into the Promised Land, they've crossed the Jordan River, they've conquered the nations that are there through Joshua, and now they are being ruled by judges. And we have this cycle that is taking place amongst the Israelite people where they are blessed and everything is going good and they turn away from God and they're disobedient, then they cry out to God, and then God raises up a judge or a ruler that delivers them from their enemies. Things go good again, and then we go through the cycle over and over.

This is the season that we are in as we read the story of Ruth, and specifically the timeframe would be roughly 1350 to 1050 BC. So we're talking 3,300 years ago, all right? This is when this is taking place during the time of the judges. And again, the quick recap of Genesis to Judges. You have Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, the son, Joseph. He is sold into slavery in Egypt. Eventually, there's a famine.

God uses Joseph to rescue the people along with his family, and so all of Joseph's family travels to Egypt. They survive there. Eventually, there's a new Pharaoh. Joseph dies and the Israelites become enslaved to the Egyptians because they are fearful of them. God raises up this man named Moses to deliver the Israelites from Egypt. They

leave Egypt, and as soon as they get into the wilderness, they're disobedient, and so they are punished. They wander in the wilderness for 40 years.

God raises up Joshua, who takes them across the Jordan River into the Promised Land, and when they arrive in the Promised Land, they are not supposed to have a king because God is to be their king. And this is why we have judges that come and go, and judges tells us that this season is described as a time that in those days, Israel had no king, and everyone did as they saw fit.

Can I just tell you that in a time when everyone does as they see fit, it is a bad time. We all don't have the best intentions, and this is what's happening in Israel during this time. And so, it was a time of moral and religious decay. It was also a time of national disunity and frequent foreign oppression, constantly conquered by foreign nations.

And yet, the Book of Ruth that we are going to jump into proves that even in a dark era of Israel's history, there was always a remnant or a group of people that remained true to the faith, because this is the season we are going to find ourselves in. So, I encourage you to open your Bibles to Ruth 1:1. We're going to make it through all of chapter one today, Ruth 1:1. It is in the Old Testament near the beginning of your Bibles.

Let me pray while you are turning there. Heavenly Father, we come before You today, and again, I know I am reminded that there are many people here or listening that are in one of these dark seasons of life. They're hurt, they've been hurt. Many of them, to no fault of their own, we just live in this fallen and broken world. And so, Father, I pray as we read the story of Ruth, that we would be reminded that you are a God who is faithful and true and loyal, and that we can trust you even in our difficult seasons.

And so, Father, as we learn more about you this morning, may we be drawn closer to you. We ask this in Jesus' name, amen. So here in Ruth chapter 1, verses 1 and 2, we are going to be introduced to the characters of the story. The author tells us that in the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, so a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab.

The man's name was Elimelek, and his wife's name was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Meilon and Kilian. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah, and they went to Moab and lived there. So we get the introduction. Here is the family that's at the center of the story moving forward. We have four individuals, a man and his wife, and their two sons. A Elimelek marries this lady named Naomi as they are living in Judah, and they have two sons, Malan and Killion.

The author tells us there's a famine in the land, and the famine is so difficult that survival is unsure, and so Elimelek makes the difficult and tough decision to move his family to the other side of the Jordan River into a foreign country so that they can survive and have food to eat. A difficult decision to move away from his homeland, from his family, from his friends, and to move into the land of Moab.

Ruth goes on in verse 3, we are told, "Now Elimelek, Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons in the land of Moab. These two sons married Moabite women. One named Orpah." I just need to make sure you know it's not Oprah, okay? It is Orpah, this is correct. And the other Ruth, these two Moabite women, and after they had lived there about 10 years, the author tells us that both Meilon and Killion also died.

And so after this 10-year period, Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband. What a great beginning to a story, right? We're introduced to these characters, and before we learn anything really about them, three of them pass away. While in Moab, Elimelech passes away, we don't know how. We aren't told how he passes away or even the exact timing of his passing.

The author tells us that while they were in Moab, understandably, Elimelek's two sons both marry Moabite women, Orpah and Ruth. Now, because of what I have shared with you already, you need to understand there

was hostility between these two nations. And I am sure because of that hostility that not everyone was okay with these marriages, an Israelite marrying a Moabite.

I'm sure it caused a stir amongst the girls' families, as well as probably the whole community that they were living in. But as we will see, it does seem, as we'll continue the story, that these girls, Orpah and Ruth, had a good relationship with Naomi's family. They truly had a good relationship with them. Again, not a great beginning because the author does tell us that after ten years, all of the men have died, and we are now left with Naomi, Orpah, and Ruth.

And we aren't given the cause of death, there's no reason to suspect foul play. We don't know that, but one thing we know for sure about these women is that their dreams and hopes have been crushed. They've been crushed. I mean, I'm sure that they had dreams of the future of what life was going to look like. Even Naomi, who had these two sons, and they married. I'm sure she had visions and dreams and hopes of grandchildren and maybe even moving back to Bethlehem someday and bringing back this huge family even though they left with just the four of them.

All of them had hopes that were crushed, and so now what? What are they going to do? It must have felt hopeless, almost like they were abandoned. It would have been easy for them to give up. And as I read this, I recognize a truth about my own life that we also will see in their lives, that it is in our darkest seasons that God's light shines the brightest.

As I think back on my own life and all of the difficulties that I have had to experience that have caused me to walk with a limp, to truly be different than I was before, as I look back on those seasons, it's when God's light shines the brightest because it is a time when only He can provide. You all have seasons as you look back at your life where you recognize there's no way I would have survived that season without God.

And so we just held on with everything we were and we can see God in the midst of that. The story goes on in Ruth chapter 1 verses 6 and 7, "When Naomi heard in Moab that the Lord had come to the aid of His people, by providing for them, she and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there. They're going to go back to Bethlehem. And so with her two daughters-in-law, she left the place where she had been living in Moab, and she set out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah.

So Naomi hears that this famine in Bethlehem has lessened, so she decides it's time to head back to her homeland because you need to understand in this culture and in this time, it is very difficult to survive in the ancient world as a single woman, definitely as a widow. And so Naomi thinks to herself, the best chance she has for even maybe a good life is to move back close to her relatives where maybe they could take care of her and provide for her.

And so even though she has made life here in Moab, she is getting ready to travel back across the Jordan, travel west, back to the land of Israel into Bethlehem. And let's read what happens in verse 8. Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back, each of you, to your mother's home. May the Lord show you kindness as you have shown kindness to your dead husbands and to me." This is how I know there was a good relationship. There was a good relationship between these three women.

And so she says, "May the Lord grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband." And then she kissed them goodbye and wept aloud and said to her, and they said to her, right, "We will go back with you, to your people. We will go back with you." So, Naomi, we see that she has given up hope. She has truly entered the season of life of hopelessness. She has conceded in her mind that her life really is over.

She was just going to return to Bethlehem and live out the rest of her days in sorrow and loss. And if we are all honest, we can relate with Naomi. If you are here today or listening and you're over the age of 30, more than likely, you have had moments of honest introspection when you have concluded that life hasn't turned out the way you thought.

You've experienced some pain or some hurt, some difficulty, and because of that difficulty, you have become a different person. And for many of you, you make the decision, "I'm just going to go through the motions." There is no hope for me anymore to experience the joys of life that I once thought I was going to live. When I sat down with the pastor doing premarital counseling, and I had visions and dreams of what my life was going to look like, you have come to the conclusion that's probably never going to happen for you.

There are others of you, if you're over the age of 40, our society calls it a midlife crisis, right? You are walking through life with a limp because you've been wounded by something. And so many will do one of two things. You either give up hope and you just try to hold on and survive to the end of life, or you try to make huge changes that will fill the emptiness that you're feeling.

And so you go out and buy a car, you do something crazy, some of you, some people make very bad decisions trying to fill that void. This is the place that Naomi finds herself in. She has given up hope, and she tells her daughters-in-law, "Go back to your families and start over because there is hope for you. There's none for me." She knows that they are young enough, that they could still find another husband, they could remarry, their dreams could come true again, but they both decline initially.

We go on in verse 11, but Naomi is trying to urge them, and so she says to them, "Return home, my daughters, why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons who could become your husbands? Instead, return home, my daughters. I am too old to have another husband. And even if I thought there was still hope for me, even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons, would you wait until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them?"

No, my daughters, it is more bitter for me than for you because the Lord's hand has turned against me. Please be honest, church, there have been times that you have felt like the Lord's hand has turned against you. Growing up as a person of faith and being involved in the church, there have been seasons that you have gone through that you have thought to yourself, "What did I ever do to deserve this?" Now, let me explain to you briefly what Naomi is talking about here, and I have to openly admit it is very weird and odd and awkward, but we have to go back to the Israelite laws in the Old Testament in Deuteronomy, specifically in Deuteronomy 25.

And there you will see this strange law that if you have siblings, if you have a brother, and your brother passes away without a son, then your sister-in-law is not allowed to marry outside the family, because she is to continue the family lineage or heritage of your brother. That family line must continue, so she is not allowed to go and marry somebody else out of the family.

So, according to the Israelite law, you are supposed to marry your sister-in-law, and your first son that you have with that woman will carry on the family line of your brother. I told you it was weird, right? I don't say this is something you should do today, all right? But this is something that they did in the Old Testament to try to keep the lineage and the family lines appropriate. Just because the Bible is telling us about it doesn't mean that it's what we're supposed to do, all right? People will say it's descriptive, not prescriptive, all right?

They're just describing what happened, not telling you it's what you should do, all right? So this is the law. So this is the law that Naomi is referring to as she's talking to Orpah and Ruth, saying, "Listen, even if I were to get married today and have other children, and they were sons, and they grow up, are you going to wait in order to marry them to continue the family line? No, you shouldn't do that. I cannot provide another husband for you. Therefore, go back to your land and to your people, because if you go back to the land of Moab, you will not be bound by the Israelite law.

You can do whatever you want to do. You can remarry again. But if you come back with me to Israel, you are going to be bound by this law and life is going to be just as hopeless for you as it is for me. So she tells them to go back home to their families. So what are they going to do? In verse 14, "At this, both of them wept aloud again.

Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, so Orpah takes her advice and she goes back to her family, but Ruth clung to Naomi.

"Look," said Naomi. "Your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Why don't you go back with her?" This was a turning point in the lives of these two young ladies, Orpah and Ruth. And we all have points in our lives that sometimes we recognize, and other times we don't, that are a fork in the road. That one decision is going to lead us in one direction, and the opposite decision is going to lead us in a completely different direction.

And it causes me to ask the question, where do you turn when you hit that fork in the road? What decision do you make? How do you decide where you're going to go or what you're going to do? Because how you respond, when it feels like the Lord's hand is against you, will determine a direction that you are going to take. This is a defining moment for Ruth and for Orpah. One way, going back to Moab, led back to an old way of life.

It led back to going back to what used to be, back to your family of origin, while the other way, I am here to share with you led to the Lord. It seems clear that both of these women, Orpah and Ruth, had affection for Naomi. They appreciated her. They loved her. They loved their family. Naomi even admits to that, "Thank you for loving me and my dead husband and your dead husbands.

Thank you for loving us well," but it seems clear that Ruth's affection went beyond Naomi to the Lord. Ruth had an experience with Yahweh, the God of Naomi, the God of Elimelech, the God of her husband. How do we know this? Let's look at verses 16 and 17, but Ruth replies, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go, I will go, and where you stay, I will stay.

Your people will be my people, and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die. And there I will be buried. And listen to the statement she makes, "May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you from me." It seems that Ruth has a relationship with the God of the Israelites, the God of Yahweh. Ruth says, "May God deal with me.

May the Lord deal with me," suggesting this relationship with him. I believe, based on this text, that she had an encounter with Yahweh and wasn't willing to abandon that, to go back to her old way of life in Moab, to go back to her old gods. You see, even when life didn't turn out how Ruth thought it would, she stayed faithful to Naomi and to Yahweh. And in our own lives, this can be the most tempting time to lose faith and to walk away from God.

When we feel betrayed, when we feel abandoned or taken advantage of, it's easy to walk away because we believe this untruth that somehow we come to believe, and all of us have believed it, I have believed it as well, that if I do everything right, according to what God has asked of me in His Word, then then I am going to be blessed by God, and He is going to give me all of my desires. This belief that if I do right, I will receive blessings from God.

If I do wrong, well, then I'm going to receive curse. But yet, I am here to tell you, we are not promised this in Scripture. Our rewards and guarantees for following Christ come after death. But in this world, Jesus was very clear that you and I will have troubles. That's what we are promised.

Now Scripture does give us wise advice to help us in this world, to help us have positive outcomes, but there are no guarantees in Scripture of long lives or healthy lives or financial stability or even great marriages. Now these can all be bonuses, blessings from God, but not promises, and I know that no one wants to hear that, even me. I wish that I could stand up before you today and say, "You know what?

If you follow God and if you do everything that He asks you to do, you're going to have an awesome marriage and you're going to be rich and you're not going to have any problems and you're going to be healthy, but that would just be a lie." Because that's not what the Scriptures say. So what do we do when life happens? What do we do

when things that are outside of our control begin to impact us in a negative way? Do we run towards God or do we run away from Him? We will see that Ruth ran toward Him.

In verse 18, "When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her, so the two women went on until they came to Bethlehem, and when they arrived in Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them." And the women exclaimed, "Can this be Naomi?" So the author tells us that Ruth goes back with Naomi to Bethlehem to try to set up a new life there. And when they arrive, the people of the town recognize Naomi, but they're probably wondering, well, when she left, she at least had a husband and two sons.

Now she's coming back with this one young lady. What happened to her? What happened to her husband? What happened to her sons? Can you imagine how hard this would be to go back to your hometown? How much pride would you need to swallow to go home feeling like a failure and feeling like you are going to be judged because they're going to look at you and probably think, "Wow, she must have made some really bad decisions to come back the way she is." I tried to think of how this might relate to you today.

You see, when people go to their class reunions, you guys know what class reunions are, right? I would have just last year had my 25th class reunion. I've never gone to a class reunion. I don't have any desire to go to a class reunion. But when people go to their class reunions, as I talk to individuals and as I see the pictures that are posted online of my class reunions, it seems that most have ulterior motives when they go to the class reunions. They go because they want to show off their spouse. They want to let everyone know that they are successful.

They want to prove people wrong. They want to flaunt their wealth. The list goes on and on as they just want to brag and go back and say, "Look what I have become." I don't know anyone that looks forward to attending a class reunion who feels like they have failed in life and they go back and went, "Yep, you're right, I was a failure." I don't see any of those people that go to class reunions. I'm sure this is what Naomi must have felt like going back to Bethlehem. She felt like a failure. She felt like she was going to be judged because people probably were going to judge her.

What did you do in life that this turned out the way that it did? Let's wrap up chapter 1, verse 20. She does say to them, "Don't call me Naomi. Instead, call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter." That's what Mara means. Bitter. She wanted to be called bitter. I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi? The Lord has afflicted me.

The almighty has brought misfortune upon me." Don't you hear the words of a wounded woman? She's wounded. She's hurt. She certainly is walking back home with a limp. Some of you today here are wounded, and I want to encourage you that you are not alone. I want to encourage you that even in the midst of your dark season, even in the midst of being wounded, that I believe in Scripture does teach that God has a plan for you and your life.

It might not seem like it today, but I am here to remind you that your story isn't over. Wouldn't this be a horrible end of the story if Ruth ended in chapter 1? What an awful story this would be of a woman who had vigor in life and a husband and children and she leaves and everything bad happens and she comes back and everything has been stripped from her. But I am excited to tell you that's not the end of the story. Just like today isn't the end of your story.

Chapter one isn't the end. We need to keep reading to see God's plan. It isn't over. I'm sure that there are many of you today that are watching online, listening on the radio, that feel like you are living in chapter one of your life. You come today and you say, "My relationships are broken. My finances are a mess. My health is declining. I have been hurt. I am wounded. Can I encourage you today?"

Don't let your story end after the first chapter. There is a good ending to the story. God is faithful. The ending hasn't been written yet. And I know from Scripture and I trust and I believe even through my dark seasons that the author of your story is good and he can be trusted. And so you and I are commanded to stay faithful one day

at a time and that we will get to witness God's beauty at the end of the story, but I'm also here to tell you, and I wish that it was different news that the beauty at the end of your story might not even come at the end of your life here on earth.

We are only promised that one day we will be in heaven where there will be no more tears, no more pain, no more suffering, no more heartache. At that point, I can guarantee you the story will turn in a positive direction. I wish as a pastor that I could answer the questions of those that come into my office and they say, "Pastor, I have tried to do everything right in my life. I'm not perfect. Almost everybody will admit, I'm not perfect. I've made mistakes, but do I really deserve this, whatever they're going through, whatever the pain, whatever the hurt is?"

And there are many times that I honestly can only look at them and say, "I can only agree with you that this all seems unfair." All of the hurt and pain you're experiencing is not because of decisions. There's no cause and effect that we can see in our world between what you've done and what you're experiencing. And so, I don't know why you're experiencing what you're experiencing. I don't know why you're going through the pain that you are going through. I only know that God is faithful and that He is good and that He will walk with us in those seasons.

I don't understand why God decides to take some people, and yes, they confess Him as their Lord and Savior, and so they're going to spend an eternity with Him, but when you look at their lives here on Earth, they've got a great spouse, they have riches, they seem to enjoy life and everything is great, and yet you have other people over here that have also given their life to Christ, and it seems like every step they take is just met with a wall. I don't know why. I'm glad nobody asked that question and tough questions. I don't have an answer.

I don't even come close to have an answer, except for God is faithful, he's in control, and he must have a plan, and I just don't know it, and it certainly wouldn't be my plan, but it's probably a good thing I'm not God because I would mess a lot of things up. It's interesting as a pastor, my position, that in any given week, I can have somebody come into my office that's a young couple that is excited about life and just talking about their dreams and smiles on their faces, and they just can't wait for the future.

And sometimes this does happen immediately following, that person will leave my office and somebody else will come into my office because their spouse is sick and they're not expected to make it another month. And they're in that dark season. Those are the ups and downs of life that we all experience. Again, I want to remind you it's normal. I want to remind you you're not alone. And I also want to remind you it's not the end of your story.

It's not the end of your story. God does have a plan for you. So today the altars are open. There will be people here if you would like them to pray with you. Maybe you're going through one of these difficult seasons, maybe you can relate with Naomi today, and you say, "You know what? I just need someone to pray with me." Or maybe you want to come up today because at this point in your life today, even though you walk with a limp, God is blessing you now, and you're experiencing some joy in life, and you just want to say God, thank you.

I know I don't deserve this, I know I haven't earned it, and so I'm just going to enjoy it while it's here. That's okay too. Let me pray. Heavenly Father, my heart goes out to the many, many in our midst, just the ones I know of that are going through a hurtful and painful season right now. I pray that You would love them in very real and practical ways, and that they would feel Your presence as You walk with them.

Lord, help us as a church, as a family, to love them well in this season. Father, there are others that this is an exciting time. And even just reading this story, they just think I can't relate. Life is good. For them, I pray for their continued blessing. I also ask that you would prepare them so that when the moment comes, they would be able to stay faithful and stand strong.

Because I firmly believe that life is just this constant cycle of life is good, I'm getting ready to enter a difficult season, I'm in a difficult season, and then I'm getting out of a difficult season, and life is good, and then we go

through the cycle again. Help us to be faithful at every point of that cycle. Trusting you, knowing that you have our good in mind. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.