



## **Ruth: Our Story - Ruth's Loyalty**

*When you hear the word "loyalty" what comes to mind? How did you first discover what loyalty meant?*

### **Memory Verse:**

#### **Romans 8:38-39 ESV**

**38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

What does this memory verse reveal about the character of God?

### **Read: Ruth 1**

We have historical and archeological evidence to suggest that the family referred to in Ruth 1 actually happened at the time and in the location described in the text. How important is it to you that Bible stories have evidence to back them up? (No judgement!)

- a. No big deal, if God's Word says it, I believe it!
- b. I find it helpful when I am explaining why I trust the Bible to others, but not necessary.
- c. To be honest I struggle with the Bible and I would like evidence for all the stories in it.

What are the strengths and drawbacks of each of the above perspectives? What do you need to increase your faith in scripture?

## **Judges 17:6 ESV**

**In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.**

As believers, how do we protect our mind and heart from damaging cultural trends like Elimelech and Naomi faced, especially in times of crisis?

*The story of Elimelech leading his family out of the land of God's promise and into the land of the enemies of the Lord is a story of disloyalty. Do you think he knew that in the moment? Why do you think we blind ourselves to the truth of God for our lives?*

Read: Romans 8:38-39, John 6:37, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Philippians 3:13–14, Isaiah 43:18–19

How does the faithful love of God protect and change us?

Why is it important that we “forget what is behind and strain toward what is ahead”?  
How could our past, good or bad, hamper us from attaining God's best?

Read: 1 Peter 1:22, John 13:34-35, Romans 12:10

*We are changed to bring change, saved to bring salvation. We are called to be the hands and feet of Jesus, His voice calling out to a lost and dying generation. How do we do that?*

*When you think about the challenges you currently face relationally, how do you answer this question: “What does love require of me?”*

How can we pray for one another tonight?