

The With-God Journey

Date: May 7th, 2023

Title: The Book of Ruth

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Description: Tucked away between the big stories of the Old Testament, is the small, yet powerful story of Ruth. It's about ordinary, everyday people, who find themselves beaten down by the hardest realities of life. But this book reminds us that a bad chapter in life isn't the whole story. Discover how redemption might be possible in your life and your story, because God is always moving behind the scenes.

Small Group Questions

1. So far in our With-God Journey series, we've read through some of the Bible's biggest stories like Creation, the Exodus, and the entrance into the Promised Land. Amidst these larger-than-life Bible stories is the book of Ruth. (It's found after Judges and before 1 Samuel.) Why do you think God chose for this small story to be included amidst the bigger stories of the Old Testament?
2. Read Ruth 1:16-18. What circumstances led to Ruth's bold declaration of commitment to her mother-in-law, Naomi? In what ways might Ruth's commitment to *being with* Naomi provide an example for us in *being with* God?
3. Read Ruth 1:19-22. What is the significance of a name in the Bible? Naomi means "pleasant" while Mara means "bitter." Is there a meaning to your given name? Think of the state of your heart right now. What might be a fitting name for the current state of your inner life? What name would you like God to give you?
4. Read Ruth 2:1-3. Reflect on the meaning of the phrase "as it happened." What might look at first like coincidence may have been God working behind the scenes. Share an "as it happened" moment or two in your life. This could be a time when something at first did not seem like a big deal. But later on, you were able to recognize that perhaps it was God working behind the scenes to orchestrate a powerful moment in your story.
5. Read Ruth 2:19-20. What is a kinsman or guardian redeemer? How is the theme of redemption prominent in the story of Ruth and the story of Scripture? (By definition, redemption means to secure the release or recovery of persons or things by the payment of a price.)
6. How does the story of Ruth end? How does this small story play a part in the bigger story of God's redemptive work? (As a clue, read Matthew 1:5-6, 16.)
7. What application does the book of Ruth have for your life today?
8. Close by praying for one another.