

## Naomi and Ruth

### Weaving the Story of Redemptive Love

Sunday, July 3, 2022

#### Ruth 1: 1-11, 14 NIV

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. <sup>2</sup>The man's name was Elimelek, his wife's name was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to Moab and lived there.

<sup>3</sup>Now Elimelek, Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. <sup>4</sup>They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, <sup>5</sup>both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband. <sup>6</sup>When Naomi heard in Moab that the LORD had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them, she and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there. <sup>7</sup>With her two daughters-in-law she left the place where she had been living and set out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>May the LORD grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband." Then she kissed them goodbye and they wept aloud <sup>10</sup>and said to her, "We will go back with you to your people." <sup>11</sup>But Naomi said, "Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands?"

<sup>14</sup>At this they wept aloud again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her.

#### 1. Living Outside God's Favor

Deuteronomy 7: 3-4 Do not intermarry with them.

Deuteronomy 7:9 Know God keeps his covenant with those who love Him.

Deuteronomy 7:13 He will love you and bless you, and your crops.

#### 2. From Bitter to Hopeful

Ruth 1: 20-21 Call me Mara because the Lord has made my life bitter.

Ruth 1: 16-17 Your people will be my people and your God my God.

Ruth 2: 11-12 May you be rewarded by the Lord whom you take refuge in.

#### 3. Rescued, Redeemed, Restored

Ruth 2:20 The Lord bless him! This man is one of our guardian redeemers.

Ruth 3:11 Don't be afraid, I will do for you all you ask.

Ruth 4: 13-14 Praise be to God who has not left you without a redeemer!

**Conclusion:** God's redemptive love is at work to bring good from every situation and glory to His great name! May we like Ruth, cling to God and trust in His promises, even in our darkest days. He is faithful to rescue, redeem and restore.

## LIFE GROUP LESSON

### Weaving the Story of Redemptive Love

Week of July 3- July 9, 2022

**Ice Breaker:** Have you allowed bitterness to fill your heart like Naomi ever? Have you been able to see God's redemptive love through your hardship? In what ways?

#### Read Ruth 1: 1-11, 14.

1. Where was Elimelek from? What was his heritage?
2. What caused Elimelek to pack up his family? (v.1)
3. Does it say if he sought God or spiritual counsel in this decision?
4. Where did he decide to go?
5. Were the Moabites friends or enemies to God?
6. What did Elimelek want to avoid? What happened in leaving?
7. Who did his sons marry? Read Deuteronomy 7: 3-4. What is God's instruction about intermarriage with pagan nations?
8. What happened to the sons? Why such harsh consequences?
9. How would their deaths affect Naomi, Orpah and Ruth?
10. What does Naomi decide to do in her great loss? (v.6)
11. What did Naomi encourage Orpah and Ruth to do? Why? (vs. 8-9)
12. What did the women do? What does this tell you about their heart? (v.14)
13. What was Ruth willing to accept as a foreigner and widowed woman entering Judah?
14. Read Ruth 1: 20-21. What is the condition of Naomi's heart as she returns to her people? Who does she blame for her suffering?
15. What was truly the cause for the great devastation they faced? Do we wrongly blame God at times for choices we have made or others have made that we have been caught up in?
16. Read Deuteronomy 7:9, 13. What truth do we learn about God? Is this true even in times of hardship, that we can trust and remain faithful?
17. Read Ruth 1: 16-17 Ruth was a Moabite. What was her response in this great loss? Who did she turn to as her refuge and hope?
18. Read Ruth 2: 1-12. What do we learn in how God worked all things for good? Who did Ruth meet? How did he respond to her?
19. Read 4: 13-17. What happened to Ruth and Naomi?
20. How is this story a picture of God's redemptive love for all through Jesus, our kinsman redeemer?

**Point to ponder:** God's redemptive love is for all who believe in His Son Jesus as their Savior and Lord. God honors a repentant, humble heart willing to serve Him. God is faithful to His covenant in all seasons of life. We can remain faithful and trust Him at all times.