

Series: Ruth

Message: No Hope and Without God

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Spiritual Friendship

- The names of people in the book of Ruth give an indicator to their character. What person's name do you most relate with today?
- What does your name mean? In what way, if at all, does its meaning relate to your character?



Engaging the Scriptures

Read Ruth 1:1-5

- What indications do you see in this passage that Elimelech was disobedient to God?
- Elimelech and Naomi thought the grass was greener in Moab. Instead of staying in the land of promise, they chose the land of compromise.
- God never demands perfection, but He does expect obedience. What is the importance of obedience to God? Are there consequences for being disobedient?
 - Leviticus 26
 - Deuteronomy 28
 - John 15:10
 - Hebrews 5:7-9
- In v13, Naomi says that the Lord's hand is against her. Is her observation correct or is her suffering a result of something else? If so, what?
- Is all suffering from God?
- Does going through a season of suffering mean that God is not present?



Commitment

Read Ruth 1:6-18

- What draws Naomi back to Judah?
- How is the provision the Lord provides to others a motivator for you to do the right thing?
- Would you have chosen the path of Orpah or would you have been Ruth?
- Have you ever given up comfort for a chance to know God deeper?
- What discourages you from clinging to Jesus?
- Jesus tells us there is a cost to follow Him. In what ways has it been “costly” for you to follow Jesus? Is your faith worth enough to you to follow Him at all costs?
- What in your life needs greater commitment?



- Who do you know right now that is in a season of hardship? How can you be a good “Ruth” (friend) and walk beside them during the difficulties they are facing?



Spiritual Friendships

Read Ruth 1:19-22

- How would it feel to return to your hometown empty handed?
- How does Naomi respond? Can you empathize with her?
- Naomi is feeling dejected and alone. Focusing on her current reality has put her in a place of despair and bitterness. Members of your group may feel this same way because of trials they have gone through OR are going through. Spend some time listening to their stories. Allow the group to share Scripture that will speak life into what they are experiencing.
- Why is their arrival at the start of the barley harvest a sign of God’s provision?