



Ruth — Week 1: When Life Doesn't Go as Planned

Key Takeaway: Even when life takes an unexpected turn and God seems silent, He has not abandoned you. Trust that He is still working—even when you can't yet see what He is doing.

Ice Breaker

1. Have you ever had a plan for your life that turned out very differently than you expected? What happened, and how did you respond?

Digging Into the Story

1. Read Ruth 1:1–5. How quickly did Naomi's circumstances change? What losses did she experience?
2. Read Ruth 1:6–13. What do Naomi's words reveal about how she was viewing God? Why do you think suffering can make it difficult for us to understand what God is doing?
3. Naomi knew what had happened to her, but she didn't know why it had happened. Why is that distinction important when we're facing difficult circumstances?
4. Read Ruth 1:14–19. What stands out to you about Ruth's decision to remain with Naomi? What might her commitment have meant to Naomi in the middle of her grief?
5. Naomi says, “*The LORD has brought me back empty.*” Yet Ruth is standing right beside her. What does this reveal about how our pain can sometimes distort our perspective?

Bringing It Home

1. Where are you most tempted to interpret God's character through your circumstances right now? What would it look like to trust what you know about God even when you don't understand what He's doing?
2. Ruth 1 ends with Naomi still hurting and her story still unfinished. Why can an unfinished story actually be a reason for hope?
3. The sermon emphasized that God works through ordinary people, ordinary choices, and ordinary circumstances, even when He seems silent. Where have you seen God quietly working in your own life?

This Week

What is one situation you are carrying right now where you need to remind yourself: “Just because I can't see what God is doing doesn't mean He's not working.”

Prayer:

Ask God to help you trust Him in the chapters of your life that don't make sense yet. Pray especially for those who are experiencing loss, disappointment, or uncertainty, that they would remember that **an unfinished story is not a forgotten story.**