



Ruth: wk 1

A short book in the Old Testament gives us not only an interesting look at the bloodline of David-also meaning Jesus' bloodline; but also a study in God's provision in the midst of life's pain.

Discussion Questions

1. Is there any particular kind of pain that you try specifically to avoid-like the dentist or shots?
2. One of the common responses to going through major painful experiences is to question either where God is or why He would allow this to happen. If pain is such a common experience, why does it lead so many to question either God's caring or His presence?
3. **Read Ruth 1:20-21** The name Naomi means pleasant-and Mara bitter. What do you think of Naomi's attempted name change? Why does she think God did this to her?
4. In the sermon Jeremy said there were 3 basic reasons for most pain. 1 consequences of your actions; 2 consequences of other's actions; 3 consequences of a fallen world. If those 3 don't cover it, what other reasons are there for pain? How do you feel about each of these reasons?
5. **Read Ruth 1:16-17** Ruth shows incredible commitment to Naomi. In what ways can God enter our pain by using those relationships close to us? Ruth is not a helpless widow in this story. She is committed and hard-working and brave. How does God honor her faithfulness?
6. In Deuteronomy 19 there is instruction about leaving parts of the field un-harvested for the immigrant and the poor. What does that say about God's interest in the poor? How does that design and implementation of His design bless not only Ruth by others by extension?
7. Have you ever seen pain redeemed? Where can pain become a good thing?

Shaping Your Mind *Ruth 1:16-17 ...Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. ¹⁷ Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.*

Moving Forward – When you are experiencing pain, always remember you are not in that pain alone.