

Water of Life Community Church
RUTH
FINAL DECISIONS THAT DIRECT DESTINY
WEEK 1
RUTH 1

PARTICIPANT GUIDE

ICE BREAKER

PRAYER

WORSHIP

INTRODUCTION

When we walk through difficult circumstances in this life, we are often unable to see what God is doing in the midst of them. The Book of Ruth introduces us to Naomi and Ruth at that part of their story and invites us to see God's providence in their lives as they made decisions that directed them to His destiny.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The story of Ruth happened during the time of the judges. What do you know about this time? What was life like in Israel?

Read Judges 21:25. What happens when people only do what seems right in their own eyes? How is the time of the judges like our own? How is it different?

1. READ RUTH 1:1-5.

- a. Make a list of the events in these five verses. Who are the characters? Where are they from? Where did they go? What has happened to them?
- b. How do you see Elimelech reflecting the cultural norm of the day where, "everyone did what was right in his own eyes"?
- c. What does Elimelech's willingness to move his family from Bethlehem to Moab reveal about his faith?
- d. Famine came and Elimelech packed up his family and left. How do you know the difference between when leaving a bad situation is wise, and when is it just plain quitting? When have you been desperate and made a decision (by the flesh) you later regretted?
- e. What are some "temporary" decisions you made as a way of solving problems that turned into something permanent?

2. READ RUTH 1:6-18.

- a. Where do you see these women choosing life not death?
- b. Why is it important to recognize blessings and express gratitude if we're going to faithfully continue following God?
- c. Naomi says the Lord's hand is against her. What reasons did she have for feeling that way? Was she right? How do you know?
- d. Why would Naomi attempt to make the perilous journey back to Bethlehem and God's people if she believed God's hand was against her?
- e. Why did Ruth commit to go with Naomi to Bethlehem? What did she give up to do so?
- f. How does Ruth's statement in verses 16-17 mirror what happens when we receive and begin to follow Christ?

3. READ RUTH 1:19-22.

- a. Did Elimelech's sin ultimately stop God from working in the lives of his family? Why not?
- b. How have you experienced this in your life, where God doesn't stop working even though you stepped out of His boundaries for a time?

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

- How do the hungers that we all chase after have the power to kill us, destroy our destiny, or drive us past God's boundaries? Give a present-day example.
- We heard in this week's message, "Jesus has called us to new boundaries that give life if we live in them." What does that mean to you in your current circumstance?
- God had spoken that where there were famines, He would meet His people. What practical steps can you take now to prepare to trust Him and stay within His boundaries when those times come?

GOING DEEPER/WEEKLY CHALLENGE

REFLECT

- Reflect back to a time when you were at a crossroads and you had to make a big life decision. What was your decision-making process?

RESPOND

- The next time you face a decision, take a moment to invite God into your decision-making process through prayer and reflection.

Also ... Subscribe to our e-devotionals by texting "eDevotional" to 67076; or go to wolgroups.com and click on the eDevotional button for daily testimonies relating to this week's theme.

MEMORY VERSE

Ruth 1:7, Christian Standard Bible (CSB)

She left the place where she had been living, accompanied by her two daughters-in-law, and traveled along the road leading back to the land of Judah.

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