



Week 1

Sermon Series: Surrendered: Ruth, Hosea, Titus, Philemon, Jonah

Sermon Title: Family Tragedy—Personal Devotion

Sermon Text: Ruth 1

Study Handout Week of: August 26, 2018

Group Week of: September 2, 2018

Sermon Date: September 9, 2018

DOCTRINE: Providence. The central point of the doctrine of Providence is the stress on God's government of the universe. He rules his creation with absolute sovereignty and authority. He governs everything that comes to pass, from the greatest to the least. Nothing ever happens beyond the scope of his sovereign providential government. He makes the rain to fall and the sun to shine, He raises up kingdoms and brings them down. He numbers the hairs on our head and the days of our life. (Genesis 50:20) *The Reformation Study Bible*.

ATTRIBUTE OF GOD: Preserver. God is the God who is there. As our Preserver: He is there in our great need (Psalm 116:6); He is there when we are about to fall (Psalm 118:13); He lifts us up in humbling times (Psalm 145:14); His Holy Spirit speaks to us to keep us on the right path (Isaiah 31:21); He is working for our good when we are called according to his purpose (Romans 8:28).

DAY 1: Read Ruth 1:1-22

1. What stands out to you in this chapter?
2. Sum up these verses in one sentence.

DAY 2: Read Ruth 1:1-5; Psalm 56:3; Psalm 94:14; Proverbs 3:5; Matthew 28:20

1. Why did Elimelech take his family to Moab?
2. Was this a good decision? Why or why not?
3. Describe Naomi's resulting emptiness.
4. Can you share a time in your life when disobedience or your choices brought despair, loss and emptiness? How did God work in your life at that time?

DAY 3: Read Ruth 1:6-18; Psalm 37:5-6; Jeremiah 17:7

1. In verses 6 and 7 the stage is set. What hope did Naomi receive, and what factors must these women consider in order to determine their next move?
2. How many times in verses 6-22 does the verb “to return” occur (NIV)? What was Naomi’s concern for Orpah and Ruth?
3. How do you see Naomi’s grief affecting her sensitivity toward her daughters-in-law?
4. How do verses 15 and 16 bring out the choice of these two women? Where was the allegiance of each?
5. Describe the depth and uniqueness of Ruth’s commitment.
6. Have you committed your life to the Lord Jesus Christ? Do you know him as your Lord and Savior? If so, will you share your story with the group? If not, will you respond to him today in total commitment?

DAY 4: Read Ruth 1:19-22; Jeremiah 14:22

1. In conversation with the women of Bethlehem, how did Naomi refer to God? What does that tell you about God and about what she knew of him, even though she was grieving?
2. How does Naomi view her future? Whom did she blame?
3. What two things in verse 22 should have given Naomi great hope for her future?
4. In staying, Ruth showed an extraordinary level of commitment and love for Naomi and for her God. Is there something God has done or is doing in your life that you had perhaps overlooked as a work from him? Can you look back and see how the providential God was at work in your life?

DAY 5: Read Ruth 1:1-22

1. Elimelech’s decision to go to Moab resulted in death and destitution. But God, in his providence, was working, guiding, and directing the story of Naomi and Ruth. Can you share a time when you were in a situation where you perhaps were left “destitute,” but at the same time God was working in your situation to show his power and love and preservation?