



## Context

-- v. 1 – The book of Ruth is set in the period of the \_\_\_\_\_.

-- This was a 400-year period after Israel entered the Promised Land under Joshua and before there were any kings in Israel.

-- Extraordinary events were taking place in extraordinary chaos.

-- In stark contrast, the account of Ruth is an ordinary tale of ordinary people doing ordinary things in an ordinary place.

-- The book of Ruth is extraordinary because it is ultimately about \_\_\_\_\_.

-- Ruth culminates with the birth of a child named Obed, who would be the grandfather of David and a direct ancestor of Christ.

-- Ruth reveals how our gracious God delights in using ordinary people and our trials to bring about His extraordinary purposes.

## Ruth Chapter One

-- Famine (v. 1-2), Turmoil (v. 3-5), Return (v. 6-7), Separation (v. 8-15), Faith (v. 16-18), Bitterness (v. 19-21), Hope (v. 22)

## Application

-- v. 16-18 – A Picture of True Faith

1.) True faith means forsaking one's \_\_\_\_\_ life. Ruth leaves her own land and family altogether and forever.

2.) True faith means forsaking worldly \_\_\_\_\_. As far as Ruth knows, going with Naomi meant a future with no husband or children.

- 3.) True faith means committing to a new \_\_\_\_\_. Ruth sets out for an unknown land with a new people, new customs, and a new language.
- 4.) True faith sees beyond our \_\_\_\_\_. Even in the midst of devastating circumstances, Ruth commits herself completely to Naomi and the God of Israel.

### **The ABC's of Overcoming Trials: A Lesson from Naomi's and Ruth**

-- Though their sufferings were great to be sure, their future hope was much greater (Romans 8:17-18).

#### **A – Acknowledge God's \_\_\_\_\_.**

- In spite of her complaints, Naomi still had confidence that God was in complete control (Amos 3:6, Psalm 139:16).
- When we know who God is and what He has promised, there is living hope in His sovereignty (2 Cor. 4:16-18).

#### **B – Be \_\_\_\_\_ through suffering.**

- Sinful people in trials tend to become self-focused.
- Yet, in spite of her affliction and sorrow, Naomi seems to have been more concerned about her daughters-in-law than herself (v. 8-15).
- Ruth is a model of selflessness in response to affliction.
- Consider Christ, who suffered most intensely of all, yet gave Himself for sinners all the way to the cross (Philippians 2:3-8).

#### **C – Come \_\_\_\_\_ to God.**

- At their lowest point and most difficult decision, Naomi and Ruth choose to turn toward God rather than away from Him.
- v. 7, James 4:7-8, Matthew 11:28-30

#### **D – Don't \_\_\_\_\_ over circumstances (Phil. 4:6-7, 1 Thes. 5:18).**

- v. 21 – *“I went away full, but the LORD has brought me back empty.”*
  - Naomi needed to remember Joseph (Genesis 50:20).
  - Naomi needed to remember Ruth.
  - Naomi was so focused upon her troubles that she missed the dawn of blessings from God.
- v. 22 – The entire feeling of the story begins to shift. Naomi and Ruth return to Bethlehem, the “house of bread,” just as the harvest begins.

## Summary

-- Even in the worst of times when God feels the farthest away, if you are in Christ, you can rest assured that He is laying a foundation in your life for a much greater future happiness.

**-- In the ordinary lives of His people, our God is working out His extraordinary purposes for our good and His glory (Romans 8:28).**

-- Ordinary lives are extraordinary in the utmost to the degree that we are looking to Christ, pointing to Christ, and exalting Christ.

-- There are no meaningless moments if our moments are all about \_\_\_\_\_.