



Is there more to my story?



The Book of Ruth
May 2022

Home Group study: week beginning 1st May 2022

THEME: IS THERE MORE TO MY STORY... THAN EXPERIENCING HARDSHIP?

PASSAGE: RUTH 1

LAUNCH

Think of a trivial example of when something went wrong (DIY, Holidays, Trips are all good examples). What went wrong? Did you see it as being your fault? If so, why? How did you feel & then respond?

DISCOVERY & UNDERSTANDING

What goes wrong in the first 5 verses of chapter 1? Why are these events such a calamity for Naomi?

The religious Jewish reader would have thought 'well it serves them right'. Why would they have thought this and do you agree with the assessment?

Naomi attributed the affliction to God. Was she right to do this? Why or why not?

When you are faced with major affliction, what do your discussions with God look like?

Why is Naomi right in saying it makes no sense for her daughters-in-law to return with her? Or put another way - what is the cost?

What are some of the key factors that persuade Ruth to pay this cost?

Are there any situations where you might need to count the cost in order to follow the will of God?

What is the nature of Ruth's promise in verse 16 & why is it so extraordinary?

Ruth's commitment to Naomi is summarised by the Hebrew word *Hesed* which means loving commitment. Mick Taylor suggests that *Hesed* is especially important during times of trouble. Why might this be the case?

To whom is God calling you to show particular *Hesed* love towards at the moment?

Despite the bitterness of the situation, in what way was God still working out his sovereign purposes?

APPLICATION

Pray for those going through a difficult time that they would know that God's good purposes are still being worked out.

Pray that we would be like Ruth in showing real *Hesed* love to family, friends, those in the church, neighbours and anyone we come into contact with.