

In-Home Discipleship Guide

Below is a guide to help prepare you (and your small group or family) for Sunday worship. We encourage you to take advantage of this as you are able, and let us know if there are other ways we can serve you at this time.

THEME: FAITHFULLNESS IN DESPAIR!

MEMORY VERSE: Ruth 1:16 “Your people shall be my people, and your God my God”

BIG IDEA: God’s Grace in the midst of difficult circumstances.

SONGS: Click [here](#) for Sunday’s worship set. *Be sure to subscribe to our channel!*

TEACHING PASSAGE: Ruth 1:1-22

*See the **next page** for any additional resources, including any activities that can be done with young children.*

Discussion Questions:

1. (verses 1-2) Do you think it was the right choice for Elimelech and his family to move to Moab, (Deuteronomy 23:3-6) how do you think Elimelech should have responded about the famine in the land? (Deuteronomy 28:1-6;15-19)
2. (verses 3-5) Elimelech and his family perhaps had only intended on leaving for a little while but as it often happens when we choose to be of this world and turn from our Christian life we don’t mean for it to last but we might find it harder to return. Have you found yourself thinking life would be easier to not be a Christian? Why?
3. (verses 6-13) Naomi found herself in a very hard situation, she had no hope, no one to care and protect her or her daughters-in-law (that she cared for very much). If you ever feel or felt that the hand of God was against you, how should you respond?
4. (verses 14-18) Ruth’s loyalty goes beyond her mother in law she has a profession of faith “Your people shall be my people, and your God my God”. Naomi was not perfect but her life impacted Ruth enough to have her choose the one true God. How have you impacted those around you for Christ?
5. (verses 19-22) There is still an attitude of bitterness that Naomi is holding onto instead of turning back to God, she has not recognized the gift that God has given her in Ruth. Take a few moments to recognize the gifts that God has given you and then thank God for them.

Additional Resources

Teaching Passage: Ruth 1:1-22

In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. ² The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. ³ But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴ These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years, ⁵ and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

⁶ Then she arose with her daughters-in-law to return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the fields of Moab that the LORD had visited his people and given them food. ⁷ So she set out from the place where she was with her two daughters-in-law, and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah. ⁸ But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each of you to her mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. ⁹ The LORD grant that you may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband!" Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept. ¹⁰ And they said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." ¹¹ But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? Have I yet sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? ¹² Turn back, my daughters; go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, even if I should have a husband this night and should bear sons, ¹³ would you therefore wait till they were grown? Would you therefore refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, for it is exceedingly bitter to me for your sake that the hand of the LORD has gone out against me." ¹⁴ Then they lifted up their voices and wept again. And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

¹⁵ And she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." ¹⁶ But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. ¹⁷ Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the LORD do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you." ¹⁸ And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more.

Naomi and Ruth Return

¹⁹ So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. And when they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them. And the women said, "Is this Naomi?" ²⁰ She said to them, "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. ²¹ I went away full, and the LORD has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi, when the LORD has testified against me and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?" ²² So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabite her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. And they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.

Say: Long before this famine, God warned His people not to live among nations that worshiped false Gods. In Moab they worshiped many gods and had many idols.

Ask: Did Elimelech and Naomi follow God's warning? (No. They moved to Moab.)

Say: They were afraid they would not survive the famine, so they made their own plan. They left God's people and went to a foreign land and resided with the people God warned them not to live with.

Ask: What hardships did their family endure? (The dad and the two sons passed away.)

Say: God warned his people because He knows what is best for His people. God loves his people. Just like a parent loves their child and warns their child of dangers.

Ask: Can you think of a time you were warned to stay away from something dangerous? (hot stove, busy street, a place, a website) Have you always followed every warning? Probably not. How did that work out for you?

Say: God is generous and he is able to graciously turn our poor choices around to benefit His plan for His kingdom. That is not an excuse to carelessly make poor choices. The story of Ruth is an example of how God extends his gift of salvation to everyone who chooses to follow Him. Think and talk about what Ruth gave up to follow Naomi. As we continue to read and study the story of Ruth over the next few weeks think about what Ruth gains because she followed Naomi.

Activity:

Print the puppet coloring activity sheet below and move Ruth toward Naomi in the scene.

- o cut on the dotted lines
- o Color
- o Tape Ruth to a popsicle stick and insert through the cut line of the scene.

