

RUTH

feb 7 • chapter one
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INTRODUCTION

For the next four weeks, we'll be walking through the book of Ruth. We don't know who wrote this book of the Bible, but many scholars believe it was a woman. It was written when judges ruled Israel, a dangerous time when everyone did as they saw fit. Although the book is named Ruth, chapter one is about Naomi, her mother-in-law. She suffered great loss and believed God had turned against her. Chapter one recounts Naomi's journey from Bethlehem to Moab to escape famine and then back to Bethlehem ten years later with only Ruth by her side.

DISCUSSION

Read Ruth 1 as a group or individually; then, discuss the questions below.

1. What most caught your attention as you read the first chapter of Ruth?
2. Pastor Jesse said "Pain is life, and life is pain. There is no such thing as a pain-free life." How do you reconcile experiencing suffering and pain and believing God is loving and faithful?
3. How does knowing Ruth remarries and contributes to the lineage of Jesus impact your view of Naomi's suffering?
4. Where do you find yourself in Pastor Jesse's quote?
"Maybe like Naomi, you've got this space of a decision. You feel like God is against you. You're hearing rumors of God intervening, but it's somewhere else, for someone else, and not when it mattered for you the most. The question is, what decision will you make? Which direction will your next step take you?"
5. Share with the group what God uses to encourage you when you feel bitter, abandoned or as if God isn't near.

DO SOMETHING

1. Consider what others shared about how God encourages them. Implement something you heard into your normal rhythms.
2. If you have a decision to make about which direction to go or Next Step to take, then set aside some intentional time to pray, journal and seek God's guidance.
3. If you are stuck emotionally or spiritually consider reaching out for help. Call a pastor, counselor, friend or mentor.

RESOURCES

The following videos can be found on [RightNow Media](#).

1. *Ruth* by Tommy Nelson
2. *The Book of Ruth* by Bianca Juárez Olthoff
3. *Love Story* by David Platt