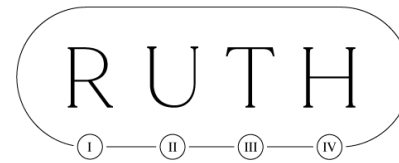


A Surprising _____



A Return to Yahweh

Ruth 1

Sunday, June 25, 2023

Darren Nelson

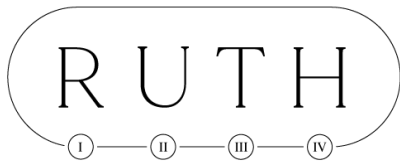
As we begin studying the story of Ruth, we enter the bitter life of Naomi, are surprised and instructed by the loyalty of Ruth, and see a ray of hope in what God is doing in the lives of these two poor, widowed immigrants. And in seeing all that, we find hope for our own souls.

A _____ Widow

A Ray Of _____

NEXT STEPS: Make time this week to dwell on the goodness of God and a time in your life that God welcomed you back as you returned to Him.

WEEK: God's Care for the Poor and the Foreigner | Ruth 2



A Return to Yahweh

Ruth 1

Sunday, June 25, 2023

Darren Nelson

Growth Groups are the glue that holds our church together, the way we find and follow Jesus together. If you are not involved in a Growth Group, now is the perfect time to jump in at gracecentralcoast.org/groups

CONNECT *(ask this question to check-in with your group)*

In light of both our summer series (Ruth and Reel Grace) dealing with stories, share which stories (books, movies, short stories, etc.) have fascinated you most in your life.

DISCUSS *(use some of these questions to process God's Word together)*

1. Read all of Ruth 1. Discuss how God's word impacted you this week. What were your takeaways from the text and message?
2. How is God's care for Naomi on display in this chapter? What about in the rest of the story? (Look ahead at 4:13–17)
3. The Hebrew word for "return" or "repent" is used 12x in this chapter. Why does the author keep using this word, and what does the wordplay help us see is happening in this part of the story?

4. Vv.14–18 show us Ruth's determination to go to Israel and identify with the Israelites and Yahweh. How do we know this is a conversion moment for Ruth? (vv.15–17 and 2:12 are helpful)
5. Orpah makes a decision of *reason*, while Ruth makes a decision of *faith*. Brainstorm together practical areas in your lives where you are called on to make either decisions of reason (ones that make earthly sense) and decisions of faith (ones that make sense only in light of God and the gospel).
6. How is Ruth's surprising loyalty to Naomi, Israel, and Yahweh a picture to us of Christian discipleship and of the gospel? (see vv.14–18)

PRAY *(use these prompts to pray in response to God's Word)*

- Praise God for his loyalty to us in Jesus Christ.
- Pray for those you know who are suffering and need encouragement that God is remaining loyal to them.
- Pray for God to help you make decisions of faith over decisions of reason in your life.
- Pray that the summer study in Ruth would draw our church closer to the heart of God.