



DISCUSSION GUIDE

RUTH - Tragedy Strikes

GETTING STARTED

Have you had an experience that feels like “moving to a foreign land”? What was difficult about that? Why?

QUICK REACTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?
What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

What is the significance that God is not specifically referenced in the book?

What does this mean for how God provides for us, or how we provide for others?

What are Elimelech and Naomi willing to do to provide for their family? What would you do in order to provide for your family?

Dave said, sometimes we won't change until we are forced to change. How have you seen this in your life or someone else's life?

What would it mean for someone like Naomi to lose both her husbands and her boys?

In what way do the first four verses of Ruth set the table for us to understand how God provides in the midst of tragedy or suffering?

In what has Christ provided for us even we face tragedy or suffering?

In what way are we the vehicle by which God provides for others?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [Ruth 1:1-5]

(Yes, these questions can seem silly, however, good discussion and interpretation of the Bible begins with having a proper understanding of the basic facts; who, what, when, and where in the text.) Work through this quickly, the answers are fairly obvious.

What is the setting of this story? (1:1-2)

What was Naomi's background? (1:1-2)

Who are the significant characters in the story? (1:4)

What is the significance of being in Moab and that Naomi's sons married Moabite women?

What is the significance of verse 4 that ends with...and the other woman named Ruth?

What does it mean for Naomi that her sons died (1:4-5)

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

Stepping into Namoi's shoes for a moment—how can you imagine she is interpreting the events that have happened in her life?

How do her questions, fears, and anxieties relate to our experiences?

In what way has a "Ruth" stepped into your life, or you have been a Ruth to someone else?
Who do you know in your life that is a Naomi? What small thing or big thing could you do in that person's life right now that may be a part of God's provision?

APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?

What do you need to stop, start or do differently as a result of reading this passage?

How can we pray for each other?