

APRIL 18, 2021

YOUR STORY IS NOT OVER
Ruth 1:6-22

When Naomi heard in Moab that the LORD had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them, she and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there. ⁷ With her two daughters-in-law she left the place where she had been living and set out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah. ⁸ Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back, each of you, to your mother's home. May the LORD show you kindness, as you have shown kindness to your dead husbands and to me. ⁹ May the LORD grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband." Then, she kissed them goodbye and they wept aloud. ¹⁰ and said to her, "We will go back with you to your people." ¹¹ But Naomi said, "Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands? ¹² Return home, my daughters; I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me—even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons—¹³ would you wait until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them? No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me than for you, because the LORD's hand has turned against me!" ¹⁴ At this they wept aloud again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her. ¹⁵ "Look," said Naomi, "your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her." ¹⁶ But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go, I will go, and where you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. ¹⁷ Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me." ¹⁸ When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her. ¹⁹ So the two women went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they arrived in Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them, and the women exclaimed, "Can this be Naomi?" ²⁰ "Don't call me Naomi," she told them. "Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter. ²¹ I went away full, but the LORD has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi? The LORD has afflicted me; the Almighty has brought misfortune upon me." ²² So Naomi returned from Moab accompanied by Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, arriving in Bethlehem as the barley harvest was beginning. (Ruth 1:6-22, NIV)

_____ : *An ancient custom in which an Israelite was to marry his brother's wife if he died without a son that could inherit the family's land.*
(Gen 38:8; Deut 25:5-10)

Struggle leads us to a _____
_____ of God's _____.

Ps 56:3; 2Cor 4:7

The best love is _____ love.
Job 2:11-13; 1Cor 12:27

The Gospel _____.

Talking through the message during the week can really help clarify the things that God is teaching you and let others learn from your experiences. Get with someone this week and talk about your answers to the following questions:

What thought from the message was most helpful to you?

What thought from the message was most challenging to you?

How has struggle led you to a deeper understanding of who God is?

What are some ways you're loving people in "ordinary ways?"

How has your story changed because of the Gospel?

What questions remain for you about Ruth?

What is God teaching you these days?

What would you like the group to join you in praying about?

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LEVIRATE LAW: An ancient custom in which an Israelite was to marry his brother's wife if he died without a son that could inherit the family's land. (Gen 38:8; Deut 25:5-10)

Struggle leads us to a DEEPER
UNDERSTANDING of God's CHARACTER.

Ps 56:3; 2Cor 4:7

The best love is ORDINARY love.

Job 2:11-13; 1Cor 12:27

The Gospel FLIPS OUR STORY.

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