



SERMON NOTES

THE STORY OF **RUTH & NAOMI**

(May 9, 2021):

Ruth 1:16-17, 19; Ruth 2:8-9, 11-12; Ruth 3:3-4, 9

- I. **A Time of Tragedy**
 - A. Elimelech takes his family to _____.
 - B. Naomi loses her _____, her sons, and her security.
 - C. Ruth pledges her love and support for her aging _____ in-law.
- II. **The Dating Game**
 - A. Ruth gathers grain from a field owned by a man named _____.
 - B. _____ plays matchmaker for Ruth and Boaz.
 - C. Boaz and Ruth have a child named _____, who will become the grandfather of King David.
- III. **Lessons from Ruth and Naomi**
 - A. With God, there is always _____ even in the midst of devastating times.
 - B. Doing the right thing often takes _____.
 - C. God uses _____ people for his purpose.

Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message

ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

The story of Ruth and Naomi is a story of loss, love and redemption. In a foreign land, Naomi loses her husband and her two sons, and returns back to her hometown with no prospects and with very little means to survive. But when all looks lost, God intervenes.

Monday: Ruth 1:1-5

As a widow in that society, left without any males in the family, Naomi had hit rock bottom. Have you ever felt that you had hit bottom? How did those circumstances affect your trust in God? Naomi had moved a great distance, and had to do it again to return to Israel, leaving everything and everyone except Ruth behind. Have you ever made a move like that? How did you deal with the losses and changes a move like that presents?

Tuesday: Ruth 1:6-18

What might have caused Ruth to stay with Naomi? Have there been people in your life who influenced you to make “their God your God”? Ruth left behind all that she had ever known to follow Naomi. Have you ever had to leave something behind in order to follow God? How did that affect your relationship with God?

Wednesday: Ruth 1:19-2:23, Deuteronomy 24:17-22

What do you think Ruth might have said if someone asked her about God after the experience in these verses? Who was the instrument of God’s mercy? Has anyone, after you have faced trouble, ever blessed you in some way that made you thank God for all his blessings? Do you believe the way Boaz (and God) treated Ruth is relevant to the debates in our country about the proper attitude toward immigrants? Why or why not?

Thursday: Ruth 3:1-18

Did Naomi and Ruth’s actions open the door for God to act on their behalf? Although there are times in which we should wait and trust that God will act in our lives, are we sometimes expected to be proactive in preparing the way for God’s help? What might be examples of times for us to wait, and times for us to be proactive? Has God ever used others as instruments in your life? How can you be an instrument of God in the lives of others?

Friday: Ruth 4:1-12

From what you gather from the story, did this turn out the way Boaz had hoped? Why or why not? Have you ever been “nudged” to give up your own comfort or enrichment in order to bless someone else? Has anyone else ever done that for you? Did you feel at the time that this happened as a result of God’s guidance? Do you have confidence in God’s love for you, and has that confidence affected your actions toward others?

MOVING FORWARD

The story of Ruth and Naomi reminds us that there is always hope with God. When we go through devastating times in our lives, we are called to put our faith in God. God is a God of redemption and we will experience brighter days. Never lose hope. We also learn that sacrificial love can truly change lives. This week place something that gives you anxiety in God’s hands.

Answers to the sermon notes: IA) Moab, B) husband, C) mother. IIA) Boaz, B) Naomi, C) Obed. IIIA) hope, B) sacrifice, C) unlikely.