

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

Moving From the Horrors to the Harvest
RUTH 1:22 - 2:23

Hesed: God's covenant-keeping, faithful loving-kindness

1. REVIEW

Do you tend more toward "If it's to be, it's up to me" or "Let go, and let God"? (*And don't cheat by saying, "it depends."*)

Read Ruth 1:22-2:23. Where do you see God working in the background? How does that impact your view of these difficult circumstances?

Why do you think it's so hard to turn to the Lord in the midst of devastation? What alternatives have you chosen in the past?

2. ASSESS

How has God used difficult circumstances to draw you back to himself in the past? How is He currently moving in your life?

Considering the response of Ruth, where do you need to...

...return to the Lord? _____

...get to work? _____

...ask for help? _____

...give to others like Boaz? _____

3. APPLY

Follow up with your answer above by making a specific plan this week. How can your Small Group members hold you accountable for that next step?

Spend a few moments thanking the Lord for his ultimate provision in the person of Jesus Christ? Write out a prayer below.

MY GROUP'S APPLICATIONS

SERMON NOTES

In the devastation...

1. Immediately return to the Lord. (1:22)
2. Actively respond with faithfulness and devotion. (2:1-7)
3. Humbly receive from the faithfulness and devotion of others. (2:8-23)
4. Always remember that God is working - even when you don't see it. (1:6; 2:1, 3, 11-12, 20-23)

FOR FURTHER STUDY...

Hesed and the Poor

Attention to the wellbeing of widows, orphans, and foreigners is woven into the very fabric of God's people. In Leviticus 19:9-10; 23:22 and Deuteronomy 24:19, God commands that his people leave an open foodbank for anyone in need of food. Ruth, as both a foreigner and a widow, utilizes these gleaning laws to save her and Naomi from starvation. Care for the poor, exemplified by Boaz, is not based on the law but God's care for the poor. Boaz would not have even viewed the field (where Ruth gleaned) as his own but as God's field that he was to steward. So, when God's people leave food behind, it is God himself feeding the poor (Ruth) from his field! Therefore, when Boaz goes beyond the letter of the law, he demonstrates the heart of God for the poor. Jesus and his disciples (us!) ultimately exemplify a life committed to God's hesed toward the poor (Matthew 5-7, 19:21; Mark 10:21; Luke 4:18, 6:20-26, 14:12-14; Acts 20:35; 2 Corinthians 8:9, 9:7; Galatians 2:10; James 1:27; 1 John 3:17-18; etc.).

5 DAY READING PLAN

DAY 1

**Leviticus 19:9-10; 23:22;
Deut. 24:19**

What does it say?

What does it mean?

How should I respond?

DAY 2

Psalms 33

What does it say?

What does it mean?

How should I respond?

DAY 3

Psalms 91

What does it say?

What does it mean?

How should I respond?

DAY 4

Isaiah 55

What does it say?

What does it mean?

How should I respond?

DAY 5

Matthew 9:10-17

What does it say?

What does it mean?

How should I respond?