

# SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

The **HESED** of God in the horrors of life  
**RUTH 1:1-21**

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

## 1. REVIEW

How have you seen the hesed of God in your life?

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Read Ruth 1:1-21. Describe the relationship between Ruth and Naomi. How did each of them react to the suffering and devastation they experienced?

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According to Naomi, what was the role of God in her suffering (v19-21)? Do you think she was right or wrong about God's role in her devastation?

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## 2. ASSESS

How do you reconcile the goodness of God and your personal suffering? (ie. How can God still be good if you experience terrible things?)

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Are you feeling peace or devastation in your life right now? Be specific in the circumstances that lead you to answer that way. How are you responding in this season?

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## 3. APPLY

If you are feeling devastation from your circumstances, how can you grow in your understanding of God's role of suffering? If you are feeling the peace of God, how can you actively love and encourage those who are hurting?

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Finish this time of discussion by publicly reading Isaiah 40 as a prayer together.

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## MY GROUP'S APPLICATIONS

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## SERMON NOTES

Does your theology allow room for God in His sovereignty to use seasons of emptying to accomplish His purposes in us and in the world?

Do you believe God is powerful enough for His promises and purposes to prevail when the pain and hopelessness seem so deep?

Do you believe God will hear and can handle the rawness of what you really want to say to Him in the midst of the devastation?

Do you believe, with fresh faith, the warm light of the hesed of God can shine into your dark, devastated heart through this study this month?

## FOR FURTHER STUDY...

The Pre-origin Story of David

The book of Ruth tells a story of God's hesed toward David and his line. Many scholars believe that David is the central figure of the Old Testament. David is the man after God's own heart (1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22), he is God's chosen king over God's chosen people (1 Samuel 16), and, most importantly, he is the father and model of the coming messiah (2 Samuel 7). Many OT prophecies anticipate a new David in the coming of Jesus Christ (Jeremiah 33:15, 17; Ezekiel 37:24; Hosea 3:5; Zechariah 12:7-10; Matthew 1:1-6; Luke 3:31-33; Acts 13:23; Romans 1:3-5). Of this new David, the Old Testament prophets foretold that his kingdom would be marked by righteousness, justice, and the inclusion of the nations (Isaiah 55:3-5; Amos 9:11-12). The book of Chronicles summarizes the Old Testament by asking: where is the new David who will bring salvation for God's people? It is all the more wondrous that Ruth, the great grandmother of David, is a disgraced Moabite woman and thus a despised foreigner to the chosen people of God (Matthew 1). But such is the kingdom of God that Ruth, a widowed Moabite, is an indispensable part of the lineage of David and of Jesus Christ the great king of the universe (Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 1:5; 15:8-12). In Christ, redeemed people of all nations, no longer strangers and foreigners, become fellow citizens in God's household (Ephesians 2:11-22).

## 5 DAY READING PLAN

### DAY 1

#### GENESIS 12

*What does it say?*

*What does it mean?*

*How should I respond?*

### DAY 2

#### PSALM 146

*What does it say?*

*What does it mean?*

*How should I respond?*

### DAY 3

#### MATTHEW 1

*What does it say?*

*What does it mean?*

*How should I respond?*

### DAY 4

#### MATTHEW 19:16-29

*What does it say?*

*What does it mean?*

*How should I respond?*

### DAY 5

#### LUKE 9:57-62

*What does it say?*

*What does it mean?*

*How should I respond?*