

The Book of Ruth, Part 1

Trusting God in All Circumstances

INTRODUCTION

- What are some of the themes in Ruth? _____

HARDSHIP

- What was the cultural landscape during the time of the Judges? _____
- What happens during times when people look to themselves and not to God? _____
- Many people have this mindset: God isn't pro _____ so I had better do it myself _____.

SUFFERING

- Many people see suffering and death as pen _____ from God.
- When our theology says that God would not _____ allow anyone to suffer, you have a very misguided _____ and dangerous theology.
- God will often use suffering and a crisis to bring _____ people back to him.
- In the midst of suffering God calls _____ out to us, and sometimes grabs us by our very _____, shaking us awake.

GOD'S PROVISION

- God knows what you need and does provide. Re-read Matthew 6:25-34
- YHWH is God's covenant _____ name. Kindness can mean steadfast love, mercy _____; faith _____, loyalty, good _____
- Yet, in spite of everything, Naomi still does not fully trust _____ in the LORD's provision.

GOD'S GRACE

- Naomi shows that her heart is bitter _____ towards the LORD. Bitterness shows a hardness of heart _____ towards God.
- Some people say that "God is good sometimes _____ of the time, and some of the time he is _____. Yet, we profess that God is good _____ the time, and all the time, God is good _____.
- God's grace _____ is available for all. We are all great sinners _____, but we have a greater God who has greater grace _____.

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

1. How do you view hardship and suffering?
 - How does your view influence what you believe about God?
2. To what degree do you trust God's provisions?
 - Can you truly say that God is good all the time, and all the time, God is good?
3. Do you believe that you or others are outside of God's grace?
 - Look to Jesus and his cross.

