

Sermon Guide

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sermon discussion questions

"The Provision of God"

- Have you ever gone through circumstances that had you questioning God's goodness? Has time changed your perspective about those events? How did God ultimately prove His faithfulness?
- Where do you find hope when the goodness and greatness of God are hard to see?
- The story of Ruth happened during the time of the judges. What do you know about this time? What was life like in Israel?
- Read Judges 21:25. What happens when people only do what seems right in their own eyes? How is the time of the judges like our own? How is it different?
- Make a list of the events in the first five verses of Ruth 1. Who are the characters? Where are they from? Where did they go? What happened to them?
- Why might Naomi's situation be even more difficult than a similar situation would be for a woman today?
- After losing their husbands, what did Naomi tell her daughters-in-law, Ruth and Orpah, to do (vv. 8-9)? Why do you think she did this?
- What did Ruth give up to go with Naomi to Bethlehem? Has anyone ever given up something significant in order to be committed to you?
- Verse 22 mentions that they came back at the beginning of the barley harvest. Why is this significant? How does this show God's amazing providence?

dig deeper:

"We have all things and abound; not because I have a good store of money in the bank, not because I have skill and wit with which to win my bread, but because the Lord is my Shepherd."

~Charles Spurgeon~

Exodus 16:1-4

God used the lack of water and bread as opportunities to test the Israelites' trust and loyalty. They chose to look back on what was familiar. What had the Israelites forgotten in their hunger and alarm? How did the food crisis cloud their memory about Egypt?

Given that the Israelites were in a desperate situation, was it wrong for them to grumble? If so, why? What might they have done instead? What was the main complaint voiced by the Israelites in this situation? Was it a valid concern? Why or why not? How did God respond to their complaints?

In what ways do we tend to act like the Israelites? How does that attitude reflect on our relationship with God.

preschool

questions

- Ask: How do you feel when you lose something? Or can't find something? Give an example: How would you feel if you lost one of your favorite things? (Name a favorite toy or doll, blanket, etc.)
- Explain: Naomi lost family. How would she feel? Read Ruth 1:7, 6-13
- Ask: Would you go home or go with Naomi?
- Explain that one daughter-in-law left, but Ruth stayed with Naomi. Ruth remained "faithful" even though she was leaving everything behind. Explain that God provided for Naomi even in hurt, pain, and feelings of being alone.

student

questions

- Ask: How would it feel if you lost something important to you? What are ways God has provided for you? What are things we may take for granted that God has provided? Read Ruth 1:1-5
- Ask: What has Naomi lost? (family) Read Ruth 1:6-13
- Ask: Would you honestly go home or go with Naomi? Read Ruth 1:14-18
- Ask: How did Ruth show she would be faithful? v 16
- Explain: There is no way Naomi can know, but God will be faithful to redeem all of her hurts, pain, and loneliness. He does the same when we face hurts, pain and loss.

elementary

questions

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- Explain: Naomi lost family. How would she feel? Read Ruth 1:7, 6-13
- Ask: Would you go home or go with Naomi? Read v. 14-18
- Ask: How did Ruth show she would be faithful? v.16
- Explain that one daughter-in-law left, but Ruth stayed with Naomi. Ruth remained "faithful" even though she was leaving everything behind. Explain that God provided for Naomi even in hurt, pain, and feelings of being alone.

