



SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

"Hard Times" *Ruth 1*

Record your insights & observations from this week's sermon..

SERMON NOTES

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) The book of Ruth takes place in the days when the judges ruled. Read *Judges 2:6-23; 17:6; 21:25*. What was going on during this time in history?
- 2) Read *Ruth 1:1-4; Numbers 25:1-9; Deuteronomy 23:3-6*. Why was it unwise for Elimelech to move to Moab?
- 3) Read *Ruth 1:1-5, 13, 20-21*. Naomi went through a hard season in life. What all took place? How did she respond to her hardship?
- 4) Read *Ruth 1:6-18*. Ruth and Orpah had to make a difficult decision to either go back to Moab or to go with Naomi to Bethlehem. Read *Genesis 2:24*. What does it mean when Ruth clung to Naomi (*1:14*)?
- 5) Ruth displays a true commitment to Naomi and to the Lord (*Ruth 1:16-17*). In 2021, how can you display this kind of commitment to Jesus? What does Jesus ask of you?
- 6) Read *Ruth 1:19-21*. After 10 years being away, Naomi faced a hard reunion. What did she tell her friends when she arrived? How did they respond when they saw her?
- 7) Read *Ruth 1:22*. The story is not over for Naomi. How does God give us a glimmer of hope for Naomi and Ruth in this verse? Why is it important for us to have hope in hard times?

FOR YOUR FAMILY

- 1) Memorize *Ruth 1:16-17 – But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me."* (NIV)
- 2) Read *Ruth 1:1-5, 13, 20-21*. Talk with your family about how hard Naomi's life must have been in this season in her life. Talk with them about how life can be difficult at times and also how we are to respond to God when tragedy strikes.
- 3) Read *Ruth 1:6-22*. Discuss Ruth's commitment to Naomi and to the Lord. Talk with your children about how they can be committed to Jesus for this year and from now on. Come up with a plan for them to read their Bible regularly and pray with them.