

SMALL GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Watch the video summary of the **May 11, 2014 Sermon** (3.5 minutes), "The Devotion of Grace." Please read the sermon passage (Ruth 1:1-22) together out loud.

Small Group Questions (Ruth 1:1-22)

Sermon Outline:

LET'S PROVIDE LOYAL DEVOTION (hesed). . .

1. **Even when family life is tested by challenging circumstances** (vv 1-5)
 - a. Raising a family in a broken political/moral climate (at the time of the judges)
 - b. Raising a family with no money and no bread (in the midst of a famine)
 - c. Raising a family in the midst of heart-breaking sorrow (family deaths)
2. **Even when family life is tested by difficult choices** (vv 6-18)
 - a. Challenging circumstances often force difficult choices
 - b. Will Ruth stay or leave? Will her daughters-in-law remain with her or go back to their fathers?
 - c. Don't force a decision when the circumstances are challenging.
3. **Even when family life is tested by uncertain acceptance** (vv 19-22)
 - a. Naomi brings Ruth (a "Moabitess") back to Israel, potentially facing poverty and rejection.
 - b. Naomi asks her kinsmen to call her "Mara" because she has been dealt with "bitterly" by the Lord.

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Naomi was raising her family in a time when "everyone did that which was right in his own eyes" (Judges 21:25). Further, she had no money. Those who might supply for her needs had died. In what way do you relate to Naomi's plight?
2. Based on #1, above: Sometimes family life is effected by difficult "culture," or lack of money or untimely death. How has God been faithful to you even in the midst of these kinds of challenges? Have your kids seen you be faithful to God in the midst of these challenges?
3. Based on #2, above: When circumstances were not ideal, have you ever tried to force and control the decision of the people around you? What happened?
4. Based on #2, above: Naomi insisted that her daughters-in-law simply take care of themselves. She did not try to control her daughters-in-law (insisting that they take care of her), but looked to the Lord. How has God provided for you when you stopped trying to control/manipulate family decisions or your kid's choices?
5. Based on #3, above: Naomi does not seem angry, but does insist that God has dealt with her "bitterly." Have you come to accept bitter situations without yourself becoming bitter? How?