

## **Ruth 1**

*“God’s Steadfast Love and the Gift of Godly Friendship  
During Famines, Funerals, and Covid 19 Pandemics”  
(pt. 2)*

**INTRO-** Can believers know with absolute certainty that God is both sovereign and good and that He is ultimately for us, not against us?

Life Application Questions are provided for you by your Pastor on pages 3-4.

Please take and make time to apply God's Word to your life.  
Application Questions

How is the Ruth story a universal story? Why is it so easy for believers to connect with these characters and this book/story? When is the last time you felt like you were drowning in a sea of despondency? When you feared that your faith would fail- that the tempter might prevail- etc.?

When was the last time your feelings and raw emotion clouded your spiritual/biblical vision? Fear, worry, and anxiety can cause a believer to not think rationally and biblically about life! Note Jesus words on this subject in Matthew 6 and Paul's in Philippians 4:6-7.

When Naomi reaches "rock bottom" she began to assume that God must be against her. She began to doubt the God of Genesis 50:20 and Romans 8:28f. Surely you know true believers who may be asking the same questions.

The Proverbs note that "HOPE deferred can make the heart sick."

Reflect on one of the main points from this morning's sermon: *It is only the amazing grace of God that keeps bruised reeds from completely breaking.* Listen to the following songs this week and encourage those believers who are really struggling with despair and hopelessness to read the book of Ruth and listen to these wonderful songs. "He Will Hold Me Fast." "Lord From Sorrows Deep I Call." "O Love That Will Not Let Me God." Note Jude 24-25; Phil. 1:6; Romans 8:28-29; Genesis 50:20; Lamentations 3:22f.

How have you been impacted by the Coronavirus Pandemic? What are some of the ways your church family has been greatly impacted by this trial and tribulation? How have you reached out to encourage those who are struggling during this crisis?

To have friends one must strive to be a good friend. Note Proverbs 18:24b. Are you a godly friend? Are you a loyal friend? Are you a loving friend?

When is the last time God used you to help build someone up when they were down in the pit of despair? What verses did you share with them? In what ways did you show them God's kind of love?

If you are married is your spouse your best, best friend? If not, what can you do to change this? Note Ruth 1:16-17; Genesis 2:24; Eph. 5:22-33; Philippians 2:1-4; 1 Cor. 13:4-7.

Are you jealous of your spouse's godly friends? True Love is not sinfully jealous.

Do you have good relationships with your in-laws? Explore the dynamics of the Ruth/Naomi relationship/friendship/love bond.

If you are single you can still enjoy extraordinarily BLESSED friendships. Note Ruth and Naomi and David and Jonathan (2 Sam. 1:26).

What does this AM's sermon teach about the God of the Bible? His providential kindness? His loving-kindness towards us? Etc.?

How does this AM's sermon point us to Jesus? Jesus is the friend of penitent sinners. Listen this week to Sovereign Grace's HIS FOREVER song and to the classic hymn "What a Friend We Have in Jesus."

The only friend who is always loving, never sinning, always there for is the Lord Jesus Christ!

Ask that the Friend of sinners and the God of steadfast love and grace would help you help others during this pandemic. Ask the Holy Spirit to make Lake Country Bible Church full of Ruth's and Boaz's.

What might biblical loving-kindness look like to you in terms of you caring for your neighbor? Your spouse? Your family? Your church family? Your co-workers? Your classmates and roommates? Those impacted by this virus? Note John 13:35; Phil. 2:1-4; Col. 3:12-14; 1 Cor. 13:4-7.

English does not have a good word to really capture the depth and beauty of the Hebrew word lovingkindness; **חֶסֶד** (*chesed*)

Are you pining your HOPE in the God of the famine, flood, and plague?

Summarize the 5 stages of Naomi's losing everything story. In what ways do you related to Naomi?

Naomi is tempted to believe the lie that all hope is lost. Her faith is fragile and she almost loses all hope. She is a heartbroken and battered woman as a result of the storms of life.

How does Ruth's FAITH in Yahweh and her stead-fast love for Naomi help this godly and broken woman get through this terrible series of tragedies?

How does this book reflect the heart of God?

Am I walking by faith or by sight during this pandemic?

Am I really holding onto to the HOPE of Romans 8:28-29 and Genesis 50:20?

Am I using phone calls, text messages, and social media to demonstrate my confidence in the Sovereign plan of always good, never late GOD?

Lamentations 3:22-26 could be the overarching theme verse of Ruth, Boaz, and Naomi's story. The same is true for all of us who have placed our trust in the Divine kinsman Redeemer Jesus Christ