

The Old Testament – Questions to Consider

Week 19: Judges 18-21 ~ Ruth 1-4 ~ 1 Samuel 1-7

Small Group Warm Up Question:

What is the craziest food you have ever tried?
Would you eat it again?

1. The book of Ruth has some amazing aspects of womanhood. What inspires you or stands out to you from the story of Ruth? Who are some women in your life in which you have seen similar characteristics?
2. In Ruth 1 we are introduced to Naomi who has lived in Moab for over a decade as a foreigner and is now grieving over the death of her husband and two sons. What challenges would come with living in a foreign country? What particular challenges do you think she face as a widow? In losing her two sons? Have you experienced similar challenges or grief? In those experiences, how did God provide for you? Grow you? Use you?
3. When Naomi returns home to Bethlehem, she refers to herself as “Mara” which means “Bitter” as she says “I went away full, and the LORD has brought me back empty” (Ruth 1:21). Is Naomi correct in blaming God for her loss? Why or why not? Is Naomi correct in remaining bitter? What are the dangers of bitterness? What are the roots of bitterness? How do we overcome bitterness?
4. We see God use Naomi to provide wisdom and counsel to Ruth towards her eventual marriage to Boaz, through which the Lord provides for the lineage of both King David and Jesus. Naomi’s friends refer to this blessing by crediting the Lord for providing a “redeemer” and as a “restorer of life” and “nourisher” (Ruth 4:14–15). Do you have a friend who is an encourager to you even in life’s most difficult times? How can we be better encouragers to help others see the Lord’s many blessings in the midst of our struggles and troubles?
5. Read Ruth 1:16. What do you think it took for Ruth to make such a statement and commitment? In Israel, Ruth gains a reputation as a “worthy woman” (Ruth 3:11). How can we aim to have such a “worthy” reputation among our community? How does our reputation reflect upon the name of Christ?
6. Read 1 Samuel 1:10. Does this summarize the pain of infertility? Why do you think God provides so many stories of infertility across the Bible? How have those stories ministered to you or your family?

More questions @ www.southfork.church/discussion-guide

www.TrustworthyWord.com

www.Bible.video

Amazing Mothers of Faith

Ruth & 1 Samuel 1-3 (ESV)

www.trustworthyword.com/women

*Consider these Three Amazing Mothers
from the Time of the Judges (1398-1050 B.C.):*

Naomi – Lost her husband and sons but gained a dedicated daughter in Ruth. Moved with her family to a foreign land (Moab) for a decade, only to return home with bitterness and grief.

Ruth 1:3–5 “But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons...and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.” (ESV)

Ruth – Lost her husband, but gained a legacy as the great grandmother of King David & ancestor to Jesus.

Ruth 2:12 “The LORD repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!” (ESV)

Hannah – Suffered from years of infertility and ridicule, but gained Samuel (a prophet) & five more children

1 Samuel 1:27–28 “For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition that I made to him. [28] Therefore I have lent him to the LORD. As long as he lives, he is lent to the LORD.”

May 19, 2024

5 Lessons from these Women of Faith

1. When Life Goes An Unexpected Direction, T_____ God's Hand

Ruth 1:16 “But Ruth said [to Naomi], ‘Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God’”

2. When Life Is Lost, or Not Given, Go to God, Who Is Always G_____

1 Samuel 1:10 “She was deeply distressed and prayed to the LORD and wept bitterly.”

1 Samuel 1:15 “But Hannah answered... ‘I am a woman troubled in spirit. ... I have been pouring out my soul before the LORD.’”

3. When Life or Parenting Challenges You, G_____ God

Ruth 3:11 “And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you ask, for all my fellow townsmen know that you are a worthy woman.”

John 9:1–3 “As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. [2] And his disciples asked him, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?’ [3] Jesus answered, ‘It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.’”

4. When Your Future Seems Overwhelming, Resist W_____

www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-worry

Ruth 1:6–7 “Then she arose with her daughters-in-law to return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the fields of Moab that the LORD had visited his people and given them food. [7] So she set out from the place where she was with her two daughters-in-law, and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah.”

Luke 12:25–26 “And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? [26] If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest?”

5. When God Carries You through Suffering, E_____ Blessings

Ruth 4:14–17 “Then the women said to Naomi, ‘Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without a redeemer, and may his name be renowned in Israel! [15] He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age, for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has given birth to him. [16] Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her lap and became his nurse. [17] And the women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, ‘A son has been born to Naomi.’ They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.”

This Next Week's Old Testament Reading Plan:

Week 20: 1 Samuel 8-22

- **Read the Old Testament w/Us:** www.southfork.church/2024
- **Hope & Purpose in Jesus:** www.southfork.church/jesus
- **Daily Verse by Text Message:** remind.com/join/sfbcdevo

Amazing Mothers of Faith

Ruth & 1 Samuel 1-3 (ESV)

www.trustworthyword.com/women

*Consider these Three Amazing Mothers
from the Time of the Judges (1398-1050 B.C.):*

Naomi – Lost her husband and sons but gained a dedicated daughter in Ruth. Moved with her family to a foreign land (Moab) for a decade, only to return home with bitterness and grief.

Ruth 1:3–5 “But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons...and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.” (ESV)

Ruth – Lost her husband, but gained a legacy as the great grandmother of King David & ancestor to Jesus.

Ruth 2:12 “The LORD repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!” (ESV)

Hannah – Suffered from years of infertility and ridicule, but gained Samuel (a prophet) & five more children

1 Samuel 1:27–28 “For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition that I made to him. [28] Therefore I have lent him to the LORD. As long as he lives, he is lent to the LORD.”

5 Lessons from these Women of Faith

1. When Life Goes An Unexpected Direction, Trust God’s Hand

Ruth 1:16 “But Ruth said [to Naomi], ‘Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God’”

2. When Life Is Lost, or Not Given, Go to God, Who Is Always Good

1 Samuel 1:10 “She was deeply distressed and prayed to the LORD and wept bitterly.”

1 Samuel 1:15 “But Hannah answered... ‘I am a woman troubled in spirit. ... I have been pouring out my soul before the LORD.’”

3. When Life or Parenting Challenges You, Glorify God

Ruth 3:11 “And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you ask, for all my fellow townsmen know that you are a worthy woman.”

John 9:1–3 “As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. [2] And his disciples asked him, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?’ [3] Jesus answered, ‘It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.’”

4. When Your Future Seems Overwhelming, Resist Worry

www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-worry

Ruth 1:6–7 “Then she arose with her daughters-in-law to return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the fields of Moab that the LORD had visited his people and given them food. [7] So she set out from the place where she was with her two daughters-in-law, and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah.”

Luke 12:25–26 “And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? [26] If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest?”

5. When God Carries You through Suffering, Expect Blessings

Ruth 4:14–17 “Then the women said to Naomi, ‘Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without a redeemer, and may his name be renowned in Israel! [15] He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age, for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has given birth to him. [16] Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her lap and became his nurse. [17] And the women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, ‘A son has been born to Naomi.’ They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.”

Questions:

- Please introduce yourself and your family.
- What are some unique challenges of motherhood that you have faced or are facing?
- During those challenges, what has been your emotional response? Did you blame yourself? Question God? How did it effect your relationship with God? How were your relationships with others (spouse, family, or friends) effected?
- When your plans in life changed, how did you handle the unmet expectations you may have had for the future? What fears and worries did you have?
- How has God grown you through motherhood? How has He surprised you? Used you in unexpected ways?