



LIFEGROUPS STUDY GUIDE

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." Acts 2:42

SERIES:

Ruth

MESSAGE TITLE:

Sovereignty and Goodness

MESSAGE DATE:

12/01/2024

MESSAGE SUMMARY:

Pastor Matt kicked off a new series on the Book of Ruth, highlighting its connection to Christmas themes, such as God's providence and the genealogy leading to Jesus. Naomi's bitterness contrasts with Ruth's unwavering loyalty as she chooses to follow Naomi and embrace her God, emphasizing the importance of making deliberate choices to move toward faith, especially at crossroads in life. Throughout the message, Pastor Matt encouraged the congregation to recognize God's behind-the-scenes workings, balance the truths of God's sovereignty and goodness, and return to Him in times of struggle.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1.) How can understanding that God is both sovereign and good help you during difficult times in your life?

Pastor Matt discussed the balance between God's sovereignty and His goodness, and how Naomi struggles with this in the context of her losses.

Reflect on a time in your life when you faced a challenge. How did your understanding of God's character impact your view of that situation?

- 2.) What choices do Ruth and Naomi make that demonstrate their faith in God despite their circumstances?

Ruth's commitment to Naomi and her declaration that she would follow Naomi's people and God showcases her faith and loyalty.

Think about a decision you made that required faith. What influenced your choice, and how did it affect your life?

- 3.) What does the term 'chesed' mean, and why is it significant in understanding God's nature as described in the sermon?

"Chesed" is mentioned in the sermon as a Hebrew word for kindness and goodness, reflecting Naomi's wishes for her daughters-in-law.

How can you show 'chesed' in your own life towards others, especially in difficult times?



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

4.) Why is it important to choose truth when you're at a 'fork in the road,' as discussed in the sermon?

The sermon emphasizes that making choices based on truth leads to following God, especially when faced with difficult decisions.

Can you think of a recent 'fork in the road' in your life where you had to choose truth? What was the outcome?

5.) How can returning to God during hard times, as Naomi did, provide comfort and hope?

Naomi chooses to return to Bethlehem, the land of her people, demonstrating trust in God's providence despite her struggles.

When have you turned back to God in your life? What did that look like, and how did it help you feel better?