



“Your people will be my people and your God my God.” Ruth 1:16

Bible Study:



Read Ruth 1:1-22. Meditate on the dichotomy the text presents of Orpah returning to her people and her god, but Ruth choosing to become one of Naomi's people and follow Naomi's God (the one true God). Another dichotomy in the text is that Naomi left Israel "full" but returned "empty" (Ruth 1:21), but God was with her the entire time.

The gospel in the story:



Naomi, returning to Bethlehem is a picture of the type of despair and hopelessness humanity faces because of sin that has separated us from God. Orpah's choice to return to her people and a false god represents one of the choices humanity has, when it comes to choosing who we will follow. Ruth represents the other choice – to follow God at the cost of giving up her old identity.

Application

Head: What did we learn?

Q: Who is Naomi? A: An Israelite woman who had two sons

Q: Who are Ruth and Orpah? A: Moabites who became Naomi's daughter-in-laws

Q: What happens to the men in the story (Elimelech and his sons)? A: They all die. Naomi and her daughters-in-law become widows

Q: What happens to the women in the story? A: Orpah returns to her people and her god (the Moabite god Chemosh); Naomi and Ruth return to Bethlehem

Heart : Memory verse

"Your people will be my people and your God my God.." Ruth 1:16

Hands: How does this affect the way I live?

Naomi went back to Bethlehem feeling "empty," yet she went there to follow the Lord. God knows that we will experience pain in our lives, but He has also promised that He will never leave nor forsake us.

Home: How does this affect my household?

Ruth was devoted to Naomi and her God. She wanted to remain part of her people and her household even though it meant giving up her former identity. This is a good picture of how households built around Jesus look. He wants to be head of our households, and deserves the same devotion.

Heaven: How does this help us share our faith?

People experience pain and suffering. God knows, and will often use His people as agents of His grace, and mercy and kindness.