



# SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Speaker: Chris Royalty // Sunday: October 2, 2022

- 1) Begin your time by briefly praying and asking the Holy Spirit to help you as you discuss and study.
- 2) Read Ruth 1:1-5 together.
- 3) What stuck out to you as you read? Is there anything you don't understand? Is there anything you'd like to discuss?
- 4) For a glimpse into the period of the judges, read Judges 2:6–23 and 21:25. Why might this background be important for understanding the book of Ruth?
- 5) Elimelech evidently didn't intend to leave permanently the Land of Promise or his own particular clan, city, and tribe within it (1:2). He meant only to “sojourn” (1:1), or to stay a while in Moab, to escape the famine in Israel. Look on a map to find the land of Moab across the Dead Sea from Bethlehem. Moab's inhabitants were the descendants of an incestuous union between Lot and one of his daughters (Gen. 19:30–38). The Moabites worshiped other gods and were not friends of God's people (see Numbers 22–25). The story does not directly judge Elimelech, but in what ways might we see his move to Moab as problematic?
- 6) Regarding God's judgment for our disobedience, read Romans 1:18–32. What marks of the wrath of God can we see in our society today?
- 7) How do the truths of Ruth 1:1–5 point us to the redeeming work of our Lord Jesus Christ?
- 8) Do you think we take the Lord's warnings seriously enough today? How can we help ourselves and one another in this?
- 9) Consider situations in which we are tempted to live as if the Lord is not King. In what circumstances are we tempted to make decisions based on fear not faith? What other factors guide our decision-making, instead of faith in the Lord?
- 10) What experiences have you had of bitter trials preparing the way for the Lord's kindness?

- 11) How can we best help a Christian friend who is tasting a bitter pill from the Lord?
- 12) End your time in prayer. Ask God to help you apply the things you've discussed and learned during this time of study.

*\* Some of these questions taken and adapted from: Jonathan Prime, [Opening up Ruth](#), Opening Up Commentary (Leominster: Day One Publications, 2007), 33.*

*\* Some of these questions taken from and adapted from: Kathleen Nielson, Ruth and Esther (Knowing the Bible) . Crossway. Kindle Edition.*