

Ruth, Week 1, GDQ, April 21, 2024

Text: Ruth 1:1-5

Context: Ruth is arguably one of the best short stories ever written. It is earthy, gritty, raw, and redemptive, hopeful, and future oriented. The three primary characters are each quite ordinary. But what happens as their lives intersect is nothing short of extraordinary.

The offspring flowing from their lives will form an important ancestral link that will weave its way through to King David and all the way to King Jesus! God's overall purpose, playing out in real lives, real time, and real places, is on display.

In this first week we will look at the Unavoidable Endings that surface unexpectedly as tragedy strikes. All seems lost as hopes for a new life fade. And what will be is yet to be discovered. However, there is always hope. The God who knows them each by name is ever-present.

Going Deeper Questions:

- 1. When have you had to make a courageous decision due to circumstances beyond your control? Did your decision have an impact on others?**
- 2. Why does the author intentionally point out the actual names of this small Hebrew/Moabite family? Why should we remember that God knows our names?**
- 3. Transitions are for now, not forever. Why is it important to understand this?**
- 4. When tragedy struck so suddenly, Ruth must have asked "Why God?" Describe a moment in your own faith journey when that was your heart's cry. What happened?**
- 5. Pastor Wayne challenged us to fully embrace endings by:**
 - a. Understanding the reality of endings.**
 - b. Acknowledging endings.**
 - c. Clearly defining what is ending and what is not ending.**
- 6. Spend time working through this exercise. Which one is most difficult for you?**