

Introducing Ruth

- Author and date are unknown.
- Purpose
 - Theological: God's presence in everyday human events.
 - Political: To support the Davidic royal line.
- Themes:
 - God's gracious rescue: Elimelech's family line, Naomi, and Ruth.
 - How God's rescue of Elimelech's family line gave King David to Israel
 - Divine and Human Faithful Love: Hesed $\tau\omicron\upsilon\eta$

1. A human solution apart from God leads to _____
Ruth 1:1-2

1. A human solution apart from God results in _____
Ruth 1:3-5

Next Step:

This week think ahead and think forward. What choices would have been different in the past if you had involved God? How does he need to be involved in current and future decisions you have to make and how will it look to involve him?

REFLECT

(ri'fлект) – To think carefully and deeply about something

That's the goal of the word of God: to learn and understand it through study. Use these questions to help you dig deeper and personally apply what you're learning.

LOOKING BACK

- 1 Where did you sense God speaking to you in this message?
- 2 Read Ruth 1:1-5. Discuss your initial thoughts of this passage and summarize it in your own words
- 3 In this text what are the ironies of the names Bethlehem (House of bread) and Elimelech (God is my king)?
- 4 How has God shown his presence in your life even when you made choices that did not have him in mind?

5 At the end of this passage Naomi is left in a hopeless situation: a widow, without husband or sons, living as an alien in a foreign land. When have you felt the most hopeless in your life? What did you do when you felt this way?

6 Does your group have a current or future outreach project? If so, what is it? What do you need that only God can provide?

PRAYER