

Week 4

Day 1

Scripture Ruth 1:16

Ruth is one of 2, just 2 women to have a book of the bible named after her. In these times the roles of women weren't valued as much and we often see them written as background characters in the Bible. This might lead you to believe that Ruth was this extraordinary heroine of the Bible. I mean Jesus' own mother doesn't have a book named after her. While Ruth is an extraordinary woman whose light definitely sets her apart, it might look different than you imagine.

We have been talking a lot about being the light of the world and the salt of the earth and that can sound daunting. We know one person can change the landscape of the world but those figures often seem larger than life. While some of you may be called to be great leaders and are on stages leading people to God, it is more likely that you may be here to shine your light to one person like Ruth. Ruth wasn't trying to be a shining light for the world; she was just trying to be there and encourage Naomi.

As we will read later on in this short book that I encourage you guys to read, (it's only 4 chapters) Ruth and Naomi's relationship grows and by being a light to Naomi it changes both of their lives. We never know how being there for someone in their time of need can not only affect them but change us. We just have to be ready for those opportunities and not be so worried about saying the right thing when it is way more important for us to be there for them.

Day 2

Scripture Ruth 2:2

Yesterday we saw in our reading how Ruth was there for Naomi to encourage her and be there for her in a difficult situation. However Ruth didn't stop there she was willing to put in the work to not only help herself but to help Naomi.

Ruth was willing to do manual labor as a way to continue being a light to someone she had already encouraged. This is why I love this book of the Bible. A lot of the time because we are reading a summary of what happened, Bible stories don't always seem applicable to our lives today. It can feel like the heroes of the Bible are approached with a problem and boom God solved it. I don't know about you but that can be discouraging at times for me.

In Ruth we see her encourage Naomi and that is excellent but it still doesn't change their physical situation. While Naomi may feel better knowing Ruth is going to stick beside her, she's still hungry. What makes Ruth special is that we can tell from reading she doesn't hesitate to put Naomi's needs before her own. But she doesn't forget to take care of herself either. This can be hard to balance at times but Ruth shows us how we can be a light by considering and working for the needs of others while not neglecting our own.

Day 3

Scripture Ruth 4:17

As we wrap up this week and the book of Ruth we bump into an interesting topic. Wouldn't it be so much easier to follow God's plan if he spelled it out for us? I believe most of us want to be in God's will but sometimes it can feel like we are just guessing. When we read this verse it shows us how because of Ruth's faithfulness she has a son who turns out to be King David's grandfather.

I'm sure Ruth, if she could see the big picture plan for her life; being included in the genealogy of David and more importantly Jesus would have no problem following God's plan and being a light. However she did this without having any idea the benefit it may have on her. That is what makes our light shine brightest, we don't do good things for people looking for recognition, (read Matthew 6:1-4) we do these good things out of the overflow of grace and love from being loved unconditionally by a perfect Savior who sacrificed his life for us.

When we walk in the path God has laid out for us it can be scary not knowing the full picture but that is exactly what it means to have faith. We don't have all the answers but we are trusting God to be the God he says he is. How do we build this faith? Yep you guessed it, prayer and reading the Bible. It is so much easier to be a light when you are filled with example after example of how God takes care of those walking by faith. When we trust God and follow his plan we can't help but be a light and who knows how much of an impact we make?

Day 4 Prayer

Take some extra time out today to pray. I once heard a pastor preach a sermon on prayer and he said that prayer isn't about trying to change the heart of God, rather it is about changing our heart to line up with his. So maybe today is praying to accept some things that you are struggling with. Or maybe just continuing to pray to be someone who is faithful even when you don't know what that will look like.

Day 5 Catch up

We know life gets crazy so take today to catch up on what you may have missed so far this week.

Day 6 Questions

1. Are you ok if God calls you to play more of a background role?
2. Ruth had to work, not just for her but for Naomi. Are you ready to work?
3. If you don't know God's plan are you able to stay faithful?

Day 7 Journaling

Hopefully a few weeks in and this is starting to get a little easier but just remember if you are stuck write it like a heart psalm. Start with one word about how you are feeling about God and then just tell him, "God today I feel....."