

Redemption

Week 3 – Barley Harvest

Transition: In last week's text, Naomi heard that God was providing food again in Bethlehem and decided to move back. She insisted that her daughter-in-laws stay in Moab and find new husbands. Orpah agreed to stay behind, but Ruth insisted on going with Naomi. She declared that she would adopt Naomi's people and God as her own.

Check Point: Would anyone like to share something they worked on from last week's discussion?

Context: This week's text records Naomi and Ruth's journey to Bethlehem and reveals the toll that suffering had on Naomi. The providence of God is subtly seen in the mention of barley harvest, which turns the tide for Naomi and Ruth.

Opening Questions:

- Think of a time when you returned to a familiar place after spending a long time away. What feelings did it evoke in you?
- When you're stressed on the inside, How do you usually respond when others ask you how you are doing?

Scripture/Storying: Ruth 1:19-22

Discipleship Questions:

- What is the Holy Spirit teaching you through this story? How does it impact the way you think and live?
- What stands out to you most in this passage and why? How does this text speak to you in this season of your life?
- As a foreigner, what do you think Ruth could have been feeling when she entered Bethlehem? Describe a time when you felt out of place and what you were feeling in that moment.
- Think of a time when suffering led you on a different course. Share your story with the group and what you learned from the experience.
- Share a time when suffering caused you to wrestle with your identity. How did you grow from that experience?
- What of the sovereignty of God puzzles you? What do you find comforting about it?
- Can you think of a time when you struggled to see how God was working in your life, only to look back later and see it plainly? Share your story with the group.
- When have you equated suffering as a sign of God's absence in your life? What false beliefs led you to believe your suffering was a sign of his absence?

Prayer time: - Hope Resource Center

- Pray for two of their staff members who are on maternity leave.
- Pray for the new moms participating in their parenting classes.
- Pray for all their patients facing unexpected, challenging circumstances.