

## It Was the Worst of Times Ruth 1:1-5

**The BIG Idea** ... \_\_\_\_\_ writes every chapter of our story with the \_\_\_\_\_ in mind. Philippians 1:6 ...

### The Dilemma

- \_\_\_\_\_ is husband to \_\_\_\_\_. They are parents to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- This family lives in \_\_\_\_\_ during the worst of times. Why is it the worst of times?
  - These are the days when the \_\_\_\_\_ ruled. Ruth's story is here to give us hope by showing us that His \_\_\_\_\_ hand is always at work—even in the worst of times.

When you live as though you are God, the \_\_\_\_\_ God will often bring you to the end of yourself to remind you that He \_\_\_\_\_ is God.

- There is a \_\_\_\_\_ in the land. Application: Maybe you find yourself facing a dilemma, and it isn't hyperbole; it's \_\_\_\_\_. It's an opportunity to do Proverbs 3:5-8.

### The Decision

- Elimelech and his family leave Bethlehem for \_\_\_\_\_ (on the east side of the Dead Sea), because Moab was known for being home to a fertile plateau ...
- In spite of the fact that ...
  - Bethlehem = "House of \_\_\_\_\_"
  - Elimelech = "God is my \_\_\_\_\_"
  - God had said, "Do not go to \_\_\_\_\_."

Applications:

- There will always be reasons to \_\_\_\_\_ God ... but there will always be a thousand better reasons to \_\_\_\_\_ God.
- We make our \_\_\_\_\_; and then, inevitably, our decisions make \_\_\_\_ (Galatians 6:7).

### The Difficulties

- Elimelech suddenly \_\_\_\_\_.
- Mahlon and Chilion \_\_\_\_\_ Moabite women.
- Mahlon and Chilion \_\_\_\_\_. Naomi is left \_\_\_\_\_—without any grandchildren to carry on the family line. For an ancient Jew, this is the \_\_\_\_\_ of all curses.

### The Despair

- Verse 5: "... the woman was left without her two sons and her husband." Unless \_\_\_\_\_ steps into her story and does something \_\_\_\_\_, the family line will end with Naomi.

### The Deliverance

- The story ends with Naomi crying again—not tears of sorrow but tears of \_\_\_\_\_—because God steps into her story to bring hope out of despair. Triumph out of tragedy. Life out of death.
- A baby boy is born to Ruth and her new husband, \_\_\_\_\_. The boy's name will be \_\_\_\_\_, and he will be grandfather to a shepherd boy-turned-king named \_\_\_\_\_. From all this tragedy, from this broken family the \_\_\_\_\_ will come!

### The Takeaway

\_\_\_\_\_ in God—even in the \_\_\_\_\_ of times. It is in the darkest of places where the light of God's hope shines brightest. \_\_\_\_\_ is coming. Your redemption draws nigh because God has already written \_\_\_\_\_ chapter of your story with the end in mind. Psalm 30:11 ...