

Message Study Guide

(Scriptures & quotes from this week's message are available on thorncreek.church/live)

Warming up

1. Have you or anyone you know ever got stung by a JellyFish? What was it like?

Digging Deeper & Application

Take your time reading the scripture given. If possible look up the verses in different versions and pause at each verse and discuss it.

2. Please read Ruth 1:1-2. Compare this verse to Deuteronomy 23:3-4. Why did Ruth go to Moab?
 - a. What do we know about Moab?
 - b. Based on these verses, would you describe Ruth as desperate? Have you ever been in a desperate situation?
3. Continue reading Ruth 1:3-5. Naomi lost her husband and both sons. Can you identify with Naomi's pain?
4. Max Lucado said, "You'll get through this. It won't be painless. It won't be quick. But God will use this mess for good. Don't be foolish or naive. But don't despair either. With God's help, you'll get through this." Is this difficult or easy to practice?
5. Read Ruth 1:6-18. Why do you think Ruth wanted to go with Naomi?
 - a. Do you think Naomi saw Ruth as a burden or blessing?
 - b. When we face difficult times, do we miss what God is doing in front of us? Why is that?

6. Read Ruth 1:19-21. What do you think about the condition of Naomi's soul?

7. Timothy Keller said, "One of the main ways we move from abstract knowledge about God to a personal encounter with him as a living reality is through the furnace of affliction."
Compare this quote with Rick Warren's quote, "Your greatest ministry will most likely come out of your greatest hurt."

8. Make sure you read the rest of the Book of Ruth in your private time. But what happens in Ruth 4:13-17?
 - a. Can you find Ruth or Boaz in the genealogy of Matthew chapter 1? Find it! What famous king comes from Boaz and Ruth?

9. Please read Psalm 103:1-4

Application

Below are some of the points shared in the message. Discuss how they apply to your life.

- With painful things life throws at you, "You'll get through this. It won't be painless. It won't be quick. But God will use this mess for good. Don't be foolish or naive. But don't despair either. With God's help, you'll get through this. - Max Lucado
- When you're in the midst of hurt, you can miss out on what God is doing in front of your face.
- "One of the main ways we move from abstract knowledge about God to a personal encounter with him as a living reality is through the furnace of affliction." - Tim Keller
- God knows how to restore!