

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Living out the gospel with
one another in our homes

Ruth 1:1-5

24 Oct 2021

The book of Judges ends with “In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes” (Judges 21:25). This ominously sets the stage for the book of Ruth where we are told there was also a famine during that time. Here Elimelech (*my God is King*) has to leave the promised land because of the famine brought on by the lawlessness of Israel.

While in Moab, Elimelech dies, leaving his wife, Naomi and their two sons. The sons take Moabite wives but the sons both die in Moab. From a patriarchal culture defined by family and lineage, Naomi finds herself in a foreign land with no husband, male heirs, or grandchildren, and no means of provision.

1. How does Naomi’s physical poverty parallel our spiritual poverty without Christ?
2. Jesus begins the sermon on the mount (Matthew 5-7) with “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” As Ted alluded, as the story of Ruth unfolds, we might say that Naomi is “poor in spirit.” How might being “poor in spirit” point us to Christ. Conversely, what would it mean to be “rich in spirit” and what might the danger of that be?
3. Read the parable of the pharisee and the tax collector in Luke 18:5-14. What is the contrast here between poor and rich in spirit?
4. In what ways, literal or figurative, do we see God use “famine” to bring about His plans and show his grace? In what ways has God used famine (or trials) to grow your faith?