



# THE DOMINO EFFECT

THE STORY OF RUTH

WEEK 1: MAY 21-27, 2017

## OVERVIEW

Have you ever felt stuck? Maybe in a rut? One step forward and two steps back? When it rains, it pours? If you've ever experienced the down and outness of life, this story is for you. Ruth is often depicted as a dreamy love story, but unfortunately it's not about two unlikely people and their love story, or characteristics to look for in potential mates, it's about the provision of God, especially the provision of God when someone is in dire need.

At the heart of Ruth's story is a reminder that amazing things happen when we trust in the God who gives generously, and that when our trust results in action, it creates a ripple effect that stands the tests of time. Ruth is a story about getting started, what it'll take to get there, and what God does for those who have just a little bit of faith.

## HOW TO USE THIS PIECE OF PAPER

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- **Meet** with God through the text and then answer truths about the Bible texts.
- **Move** to a greater understanding by answering the study questions with other people. Discuss them with your spouse, or a friend, or begin a discipling relationship with someone using the information given.
- Our time of study and growth should lead us to greater obedience, meaning that we can **Multiply** the impact of our faith but turning it into action.



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**Before and while you read these passages ask the Spirit of God to illuminate your heart and mind and bring conviction and clarity of His truth for your life.**

## MEET

**Scripture: Ruth 1:16-18, Ruth 1:1-15, Ruth 1:19-22, Genesis 15:6, Genesis 17:15-16, Genesis 18:1-15**

Take some time during your own personal study to read through these four key questions:

1. Who is God (what does this passage tell me about God's character)?
2. What Has God Done (how do I see God's character in action here)?
3. Who Am I (how does God's character and action shape how I see myself)?
4. What Do I Do (if I believe 1-3 how would I respond and relate to others)?

**QUESTION: What did you DISCOVER during your study?**

## MOVE

*Confess out loud to one another areas of personal struggle or unbelief that the Spirit revealed during your personal study.*

In light of this week's sermon, consider these questions together:

1. When have you felt stuck before? How did it affect your life (relationships, work, day-to-day living)?
2. In Ruth 1, the focus on chaos only lasts 5 verses and then it immediately moves to how Ruth got her life going again. Why do we tend to dwell on the obstacles in our life? How has God shown you His faithfulness in moving around those obstacles?
3. In Ruth 1:13, Naomi, Ruth's mother-in-law feels helpless and hopeless. Think back to the last time you felt uncertain about the future? How did that affect who you are today? Are you anymore certain? Why or why not?
4. Abraham believed, Sarah laughed, but Ruth knew... She knew to trust God. How do we know that we can trust God?

**QUESTION: How will you REPENT and BELIEVE the gospel?**

## MULTIPLY

*In light of your time together, or alone, what steps will you take to act on your new discoveries and affirmed beliefs?*

Consider these questions:

1. What would it look like if we lived with Ruth's type of faith? She knew God to be loving and faithful and it impacted the way she lived her life.
2. In what areas of your life do you need to live with this type of faith?

**QUESTION: What will you DO and who will you TELL about what God has done?**

## FACTS FOR YOU

- 55/85 verses in Ruth is a conversation.
- In Hebrew literature the character traits of the people are exposed in the conversation. There's often very little description otherwise.
- Did you know that the word, "Bethlehem," means, "house of bread?"
- Most scholars consider Ruth to be a literary work of art.
- Ruth contributes to the lineage of Jesus. Cool, huh?
- It only takes about 15 minutes to read Ruth out loud.
- A major theme in Ruth is her conversion. This shows us that our spiritual heritage belongs with God and there isn't anything that stands in the way from being with Him.
- Ruth is first and foremost about the faithfulness of God and how He constantly sustains us.