

TAKEAWAY

WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE

All of who you are, everywhere you go

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

Sunday 8th December 2019

INTRODUCTION

This Sunday, we looked at Ruth chapter 1 at each of our services. We were particularly looking at how God uses Naomi to influence Ruth's life. This turns out to be a hugely important thing – Ruth's grandson is King David and she is therefore an ancestor of Jesus.

READ

Ruth 1:1-10

DISCUSS

1. Look at what happens to Naomi in verses 1-5. How many challenges does she face in these verses?
2. After all these things, how do you think she feels? How do you think she felt about God?
3. In verses 6-10, Naomi looks to head back home to Bethlehem. She dissuades her daughters-in-law from joining her. Why do you think these two young Moabite women are so keen to follow her? What do you think must have happened between them in the previous 10+ years that makes them so committed to Naomi?

READ

Ruth 1:11-22

DISCUSS

4. In verses 11-15, we see Naomi pour out her emotions. What is good about what she says here? What is not so good?
5. How do you feel about being open about your struggles with friends who are not Christians? Does anything prohibit you?
6. In verses 16-22, we see that, against all expectations, Ruth still decides to follow Naomi to Bethlehem – even when Naomi very pointedly discourages her from doing so. Yet Naomi arrives home with great bitterness – she even says she should have a new name that means 'bitter'! She still believes in God's presence and power, but

she is angry with Him. Have you ever felt like this towards God? How can a person trust God and enjoy Him when circumstances are at their worst?

7. God uses Naomi to influence Ruth's life even when Naomi is at her lowest. Have you ever seen God use you even when you were at your worst? What happened?

8. The long-term relationship between them means that Ruth's respect for Naomi is strong enough to ride through any tricky moments. How many deep long-term friendships do you have with people outside church? (For some this is more a struggle than for others!) If you don't have many, how can you invest so that you have a few more?

PRAY

