

## CONTEXT

- › The story of Ruth happened during the time of the judges. What do you know about this time from our study of Judges (see Judg. 21:25)?
- › Read Judges 1:1-7. What happened to Naomi in these verses? Why might Naomi's situation have been even more difficult than a similar situation for a woman today?

## RUTH 1:8-14

- › After losing their husbands, what did Naomi tell her daughters-in-law, Ruth and Orpah, to do (vv. 8-9)? Why do you think she did this?
- › What is significant about Naomi weeping with Orpah and Ruth (vv. 10, 14)? What does this tell us about Naomi's relationship with her daughters-in-law?
- › Naomi said that the "hand of the Lord" was "against" her (v. 13). Was this true? Why or why not?
- › How did Orpah respond to Naomi's plea? How did Ruth respond (v. 14)? What can you learn from her example?

## RUTH 1:15-18

- › What did Ruth's commitment to go with Naomi mean to her? What did Ruth give up to go with Naomi to Bethlehem?
- › How does Ruth's statement in verses 16-17 mirror what happens when we receive and begin to follow Christ?

## CENTRAL TRUTH

*God is committed to showing kindness to His people and calls them to commit to showing kindness to others.*

## NOW WHAT?

- › How has God brought good out of painful experiences from your past? How might remembering God's past kindness help us face new trials and difficulties?
- › How is God at work in the details of your life, drawing you closer to Him? How might we grow to be more aware of God's presence in our everyday lives?
- › What are some practical ways we might commit to showing kindness to the people around us? How is this connected to the mission God has given us?
- › As a group, what are some practical ways we might demonstrate our commitment to one another in times of difficulty?

## PERSONAL CHALLENGE

- › **Dwell:** Read Psalm 40 and as you do, journal a list of where David was physically and spiritually, and where the Lord brought him. Also journal your answers to the following questions.
  - How do you see God's sovereignty on display in these verses?
  - How should you respond to the many ways God has shown you His grace? His kindness?
  - How do you see God's mercy and grace in Psalm 40? How has God been gracious to you in the past? Recently?
  - How did David respond to these demonstrations of God's sovereignty, mercy, and grace?
- › **Memorize:** Ruth 1:16
- › **Pray:** Thank God for being sovereignly in control of your life. Thank Him for His promise to work His ultimate good out of every situation and circumstance you face no matter how bad. Ask God to give you eyes to see the many ways He has shown kindness to you. Pray that He would help you to count the cost and consider it worthwhile to sacrifice of yourself in order to serve others. Pray that God would use you to point many people to Christ by showing self-sacrificial kindness to them.

## KEEP ON DIGGING

- › Read the following verses and jot down what they tell you about God's kindness. After reading these, journal one way you will seek to demonstrate His kindness to others.
- › Nehemiah 9:17
- › Psalm 31:21; 36:7; 69:16
- › Isaiah 63:7
- › Ephesians 2:7