Pastor Dave Teixeira
May 17, 2009

A Study in the Book of Ruth

Please use the space below to take notes on today's message:

Take It Homework

We encourage you to not only do these exercises on your own, but also with a group of friends, co-workers, neighbors, small group or family members.

- What is your favorite story? (Maybe one you liked growing up, or one you've read recently) Why is it your favorite? What does it teach you?

Today we launch into a story – the story of some people who lived on the other side of the world over 3,000 years ago. There is this wonderful reality that stories teach more than statements. They connect with us on a deeper level and shape and form who we are in ways we can't always explain. Maybe this is why the Bible is full of stories.

- Why do you think God uses the stories of people to teach us about who He is and who we should be?

- Isn't it amazing that the story of people from over 3,000 years ago still relates to you and I? Do you find that fascinating?

- How do you relate to the first part of the story told in the book of Ruth? How does this story overlap, relate and connect with your story?

- Are you ever tempted to make decisions based on financial security instead of faith and trust in God?

- Share a time when you've been driven by finances.

- Share a time when you've been driven instead by faith.

Many times when we are off track, God uses tragedy or hardship to bring us home to Him. This happens to Naomi, and she literally "returns home."

- Has God used hardship in your life to bring you back to Him?

In this story of Israelites who walk away from God, there is a Moabite woman who displays amazing devotion. In fact, she is a model of God's devotion.

- Who is someone who has been an example of amazing devotion to you?

In all likelihood Ruth, by returning to Judah with Naomi, was sacrificing a dream of marriage and social prosperity. She was signing up for life as a widow. God, however, made something out of nothing and worked in amazing ways to honor her faithfulness.

- Are there things in your life where you need to trust God beyond what you can see?