#Ruthlationshipgoals

The book of Ruth tells us that the period of the Judges was not in total chaos, though it certainly was dominant. God, as He has always been, was still in control. In contrast to the negative message of Judges, we see God’s involvement with a little family in the land, and how his providence works in their lives. (David Baker, “Joshua, Judges, Ruth”.)

Purposes of the book:

-Ruth shows the providence of God in the life of a family.

-God is mentioned in 23 of the 85 verses.

It is a book about God’s ruling over the events of the lives of people who trust Him. It is interesting to note that in the book, God does not communicate through dreams, visions, angelic visitations, or a voice from heaven. There is no prophet sent with a word from the Lord. Yet we see the hand of God at work in this story.

-Read vss.1-5.

By the way, Mahlon means “sick.” Chilion means “weakly.”

Maybe they looked sick and weakly when they were born or had a lot of health problems early on in their lives. Maybe they tormented their mother when they were in the womb. We don’t know!

They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there.

Quick side-note: what is the religion like in these two areas? Bethlehem, a city in Judah. Judah a tribe of Israel. So the people of the Lord dwelled there. Moab was a place where paganism was the norm.

-All that being said, we are about to read about a jewel of a woman that is from this place where God is not honored.

-Read vss.6-18.

Chapter 2. How is they going to find food in this new place?

-Read Leviticus 19:9-10.

-Read Ruth 2:1-16. (How many examples of grace do we see in these verses?)

-Read vss.17-20.

Two fully grasp this story, we must first understand two important aspects of the culture. “Kinsmen redeemer.”

-Read Deut.25:5-6, 25-28.

-Ruth’s proposal. Read 3:6-9.

-Talk about what happens in chapter 4. Boaz goes before the elders of the city and does this by the book. The nearest of kin passes and so Boaz takes Ruth as his wife.

-Read 4:13-17.

Life Lessons

1. God moves in a mysterious way—always finding a way to fulfill His will. (Matthew 1:1, 5)

[\*If I have time: By the way, It’s pretty cool to note that the city that Jesus’ ancestors left because they were in a life or death situation (famine), Jesus’ parents fled to because they were in a life or death situation (escaping from Herod).]

The baby

-blessed their marriage.

-blessed the mother.

-blessed the mother-in-law.

-would become part of a blessing to all nations.

-Handout from David Baker…

1. Guys, you wanna love somebody, love somebody Like Ruth.

-A woman who is compassionate.

Why is Ruth taking care of her mother-in-law?

Mother-in-law jokes were lost on her. She was caring and loving, and compassionate towards her mother-in-law; honored her.

-A woman who is loyal. The same loyalty she showed to her late husband, was the same loyalty she showed to her mother-in-law.

-A woman who is courageous. (2:11; chapter 3)

-A woman who is humble and gracious. (2:10,13, 3:9) Says the word “servant” many times. I’m not suggesting you find a girl that will bow down to you and say “Behold, I am your servant!” but it just reveals that kind of heart that she has. She didn't walk into Boaz’s field like she owned it.

-A woman who is faithful. (1:16; she kept these words!)

-A woman whose good reputation precedes her. (2:11-12)

-A woman who is praiseworthy. (2:11-12; Read Prov.31; could’ve been written about Ruth!)

1. Girls, find a boy as Boaz.

-A man who is worthy.

Look at the first word the Bible uses to describe him (2:1). Is the guy you are dating worthy of honor? Does he honor the Lord?

Is he worthy of dating? Is he worthy of your time? Of your love? Are you saying that the guy I’m dating has to deserve me? Well, yeah. A little bit!

How significant is it that the Bible calls him worthy? Think about what that means!

The LORD calls him worthy! Would the LORD call the guy you are dating worthy?

-A man who fears the LORD, praises the LORD, and speaks of the LORD often.

Look at the first thing we see him say! 2:3-4

Other times he talks about God! (2:12, 3:10, 13)

-A man who is a protector. (2:8) Revealed his caring heart.

-A man who is a provider. (2:9, 14-15, 3:17)

-A man who respects women. (showed love and respect to Ruth AND Naomi!)

-A man who honors his (and her) family. (Of course we see him providing for Noami, but also in chapter 4, he wanted to make sure he did right by the next in line to “redeem” her marriage and the bloodline)

-A man who is upright. (chapter 4; he wants to do things right; goes before elders of the city.)