

# HARVESTING A LIFE OF HOPE

**Crisis**  
Message 1

Joshua J. Masters  
May 17, 2020

## ► Outline

*Why am I discouraged? Why is my heart so sad? I will put my hope in God!  
I will praise Him again—my Savior and my God!*

**Psalm 42:11 (NLT)**

### A. Introduction

### B. We harvest a life of hope in crisis by...

1. Evaluating our \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Ruth 1:1-6a. C/R: Psalm 119:133; Proverbs 16:9;  
John 16:3)

2. Evaluating our \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Ruth 1:6-18. C/R: Psalm 1:1-4; Proverbs 13:20; 27:17;  
1 Corinthians 15:33)

3. Evaluating our \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Ruth 1:11-13,19-21; C/R: Psalm 42:11;  
Ephesians 4:1-3,29; Philippians 2:5-8,14-15; James 4:10)

4. Looking for \_\_\_\_\_ in the crisis.  
(Ruth 1:4,6,16,22. C/R: John 5:17; Romans 8:28;  
1 Corinthians 12:6; Philippians 2:13)

### Engage

Where do you see God's silent fingerprints in your life? Encourage one another by sharing your thoughts in the comments of our Facebook post at [facebook.com/BrookwoodChurch](https://facebook.com/BrookwoodChurch) this week. Use #GodsFingerprints @BrookwoodChurch.

**Answers:** 1. direction 2. relationships 3. attitude 4. God's work

**Resource Information:** Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, a Division of Tyndale House Ministries, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved. C/R refers to a 'cross reference.' Today's outline and discussion guide are available through the Brookwood Church app.

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## ► Discussion Guide

Use this guide by yourself, with those in your home or with others using video chat.

### Introduction

The Book of Ruth reveals the invisible fingerprints of God's hand throughout history and in our individual lives. As we walk through the story, we discover how God offers hope and direction in a world full of chaos and confusion.

### Opening in Prayer

Pause for a few minutes to quiet your heart and mind. Ask God to help you know Him more as you study and reflect on this week's lesson.

### Conversation Starter

Share about a time you felt homesick.

### Personal Reflection/Group Discussion

Read [Ruth 1:1-5](#).

As the story begins, we learn that Naomi left her home, and eventually lost her husband and two sons. She is now a widow – a position looked down upon in Hebrew culture. Without a man, she is left with no voice, no legal rights, and no way to defend herself from injustice.

1. What words would you use to describe how she must have been feeling during this season of incredible loss?
2. In what ways can you relate to Naomi?

Read [Ruth 1:6-22](#).

This next part of the story deals with the relationship between Naomi and her two remaining daughters-in-law as they return to her homeland.

3. What did Naomi tell Orpah and Ruth to do? Why?
4. Read vs. 16-18 again. Why do you think Ruth was so insistent on staying with Naomi?

5. What was Naomi's view of God (vs. 13, 20-21)?
6. What impact do you think Naomi's thoughts about God had on Ruth?
7. Why does the subject of God inevitably come up when we're going through difficult circumstances of experiencing great loss?
8. When have you been tempted to turn away from God (or blame God) as a result of difficulty or suffering?
9. This chapter of Ruth's story closes with... *They arrived in Bethlehem in late spring, at the beginning of the barley harvest.* Why do you think the writer included this detail?

### Digging Deeper

10. Read [Job 1](#). What are the similarities and differences between Job and Naomi?

### Soul Training

Read the entire book of Ruth out loud in one sitting this week—either to yourself, with a friend, or as a family. It only takes about 20 minutes to read all four chapters and will help you see how God is everywhere in this story.

### Memory Verse

*But Ruth replied, "Don't ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD punish me severely if I allow anything but death to separate us!"*

[Ruth 1:16-17 \(NLT\)](#)

### Daily Reading

Day 1: [Psalm 42:1-11](#)

Day 4: [Psalm 119:137-144](#)

Day 2: [Hebrews 10:32-39](#)

Day 5: [Zephaniah 3:17-20](#)

Day 3: [Romans 15:13](#)

### Prepare for Next Sunday

Next Sunday, May 24, we'll continue our series in the book of Ruth. To prepare, read [Ruth 2](#), and pray God will help us see His fingerprints in every part of our lives.

