



Special Message—Nothing Just Happens
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USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is not to get through the questions, but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

[Ruth 1:3-5]

Then Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died; and she was left, and her two sons. Now they took wives of the women of Moab: the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth. And they dwelt there about ten years. Then both Mahlon and Chilion also died; so the woman survived her two sons and her husband.

Ruth's Roux: Equal Parts Pain and Hope

Perfection doesn't bond people; pain does.

NOTHING JUST HAPPENS.

God will do more with your struggles than He will with your successes.

God knows your past, and He's writing your future!

[Ruth 1:14]

Then they lifted up their voices and wept again; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

If someone can walk away from you in times of crisis, let them walk.

[Ruth 1:16]

*For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge;
Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God.*

[Ruth 2:1-2]

There was a relative of Naomi's husband, a man of great wealth, of the family of Elimelech. His name was Boaz. So Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, "Please let me go to the field, and glean heads of grain after him in whose sight I may find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter."

This isn't just happenstance; this is the work of a good, good God.

[Ruth 2:3]

Then she left, and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers. And she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech.

Providence

“In God’s wisdom, power, righteousness, and love He is hastening slowly to work out His own eternal purposes for His own glory and for our eternal good.” (Baker’s Dictionary of Theology)

NOTHING JUST HAPPENS.

[Ruth 2:3]

And she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz...

[Ruth 4:13]

So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When he made love to her, the Lord enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son.

[Ruth 4:18-20]

This, then, is the family line of Perez: Perez was the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, Salmon the father of Boaz, Boaz the father of Obed, Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David.

NOTHING JUST HAPPENS.

For Monday—

1. Read Ruth 1-4.
2. Pray for wisdom in your relationships: Invest in those who will be real with you, and let those who want to walk away, walk away.

TALK IT THROUGH

1. How many of you like to cook? Whether you're skilled at it or not, what is the role of a recipe?
2. When considering the roux, God can use the bitter and the burnt to bring out the best. What does that mean to you?
3. What comes to mind when you hear, "Nothing just happens."?
4. How did the story of Ruth portray equal parts pain and hope?
5. What happens when you feel like the "clock of your life is ticking down?" What do you feel, and in what ways do you mobilize? (You have the desire, but you no longer have the time.)
6. Who has stayed with you in the times of crisis and pain? How have those relationships grown through seasons of life?
7. "Your pain has a purpose." What personal insight or revelation did you get about your trials and how does connecting with your local church help you move forward? What does it look like for you staying connected to your local church?
8. When has God taken a desperate situation and made it into a destiny setup?
9. Let this truth from Ruth encourage you: *In the economy of God, we always level up!*