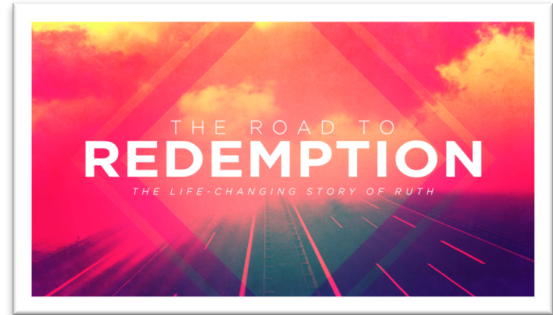


## WHERE THE ROAD BEGINS

RUTH 1:1-18 // PASTOR TODD DUGARD  
MARCH 15, 2020



**On the road to redemption I am faced with many heartaches and challenges (1:1-5), but, I will cling to hope and believe for better days (1:6-14a) determined to go with God no matter what (1:14b-18)**

## GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Have you ever thought of yourself as someone who needed to be redeemed? What drew you to this conclusion?

Ruth and Naomi's struggles are a Biblical example of what Jesus taught his disciples in John 16:33. Are recent events new types of heartaches or just part of the ongoing human experience that Ruth and Naomi faced? What does God use these struggles to help us realize about life?

How does your emotional response to the current struggles in your life reveal your confidence or doubts about what Jesus taught in John 16:33? How can we be sensitive to people whose faith waivers during crises?

Can you understand the reasons for Naomi's bitterness? She would have preferred to isolate herself at her lowest point of faith. How can we know from Ruth's pledge of loyalty that God had different plans for Naomi?

Have you considered relationships with other believers as part of God's unfolding plan of redemption in your life? As you think of it now, who may he be using to restore your hopes?

For Naomi, Moab was the place where it all went wrong. The rest of her story shows how God redeemed her family through Ruth's determination and loyalty and a redeemer they hadn't yet met. It was a journey on the road to redemption. If you had to choose one phrase of determination from Psalm 23 as the motto for your journey, which verse would it be?

Ruth's pledge is one the most inspiring promises of friendship recorded anywhere. Do you look for moments of inspiration to come from God while you're feeling bitter towards him about life? Why would he give us this kind of gift at such a moment?

***Resignation lies down quietly in an empty universe. Acceptance rises up to meet the God who fills that universe with purpose and destiny. Resignation says, "I can't," and God says, "I can." Resignation says, "It's all over for me." Acceptance asks, "Now that I'm here, Lord, what's next?" Resignation says, "What a waste." Acceptance says, "In what redemptive way can you use this mess, Lord?"—Jill Briscoe.***

Are you responding to God's redemptive efforts in your life? What do you need to start hoping in again knowing that God intends to bring about joy from your heartache, loss, loneliness, despair, and/or tragedy?