

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

Thank you for joining us today. This is a short note to let you know that we know what you are thinking: It is warm and cramped in this room. We want to acknowledge with you that yes, the front room is full, the kid's rooms are full, and it can get warm. We are working on alleviating this right now and will be moving to a permanent home on Clark and Bethany Drive this Fall. Although we might very well be cramped in the new property, it will at least have Air Conditioning!

There is a lot that goes into the process of Element having a permanent home, but we hope that today you are first drawn to Jesus before you are overwhelmed by anything else. If it gets too hot, we may hand out popsicles to help you cool off and give you a sugar rush. If you would like a service that has open seats (and is cooler), you are invited to our 8:15 am service. Please understand that all of these "challenges" are because of our love for Jesus, people, and growth that has come quickly. These are good things. We hope you will stay as we work to make more room for you to be part of the good thing Jesus is doing here. If you would like more information about our moving or how you can participate, you can visit: www.elementroots.org.

- The Element Team

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Meet the Hovivians

**Cory & DJ Hovivian are missionaries that Element supports
in Cork, Ireland with the mission of:
"Planting churches and multiplying disciples
among all peoples in Ireland"**

Learn more at the Welcome Center after service or by going to:
irelandharvest.org/mission_plan

Join our Weekly Email

Stay up to date in your inbox!

Sign up at ourelement.org or email
connect@ourelement.org and say, "Join mailing list"

CPR & First Aid Class

September 16, 8am-4pm at Element

Cost is \$40 due at registration by Sept. 13th

Sign up at Welcome Center

Story Within The Story Week Three: Sovereign, Good, and Kind – Ruth 1:6-18



Today's Verses:

Lamentations
3:22-23
Judges 21:25
Ruth 1:6-18

Leviticus 19:18
Deuteronomy
10:19

Psalms 18:50
Deuteronomy 6:4
Exodus 34:6
Romans 8:28

Story Within The Story Week Three: Sovereign, Good, and Kind – Ruth 1:6-18

Though Ruth is a small book, you will see her come to have a mighty faith in an even mightier God: a sovereign, good, and kind God who invites us into His big story. To recap the first 2 weeks:

- Week 1 – God’s providence reminds us our past doesn’t have to decide our future.
- Week 2 – God’s faithfulness reaches beyond our circumstances to identify us as his precious children.

This week we will hopefully begin to understand that God is sovereign and good, two attributes which are shown in His kindness displayed to His people. When we think of God we hopefully think of Him as loving, gracious, compassionate, just, righteous, strong, creative, and ultimately kind. We’ve seen a lot of not so kind things happening even in the first few verses of Ruth 1, but the central idea behind God’s kindness is that He keeps His word no matter what.

A term that is used by Charles Spurgeon, John James, and John Flavel is, “sanctified affliction.” Sanctified affliction is the idea that no matter what we feel God has afflicted us with, it can be used for a greater purpose. John Flavel said there are 8 answers to the question “Why does God sovereignly permit the suffering of His people?”

1. To reveal and deter
2. To produce godliness and spiritual fruit
3. To reveal more of the character of God
4. To relinquish the temporary for the eternal
5. To produce a sincere faith with no hypocrisy
6. To encourage fellowship with God through word and prayer
7. To bear witness to the world
8. To cultivate community with Christ, the greatest sufferer

The things that we go through in our lives are based out of God’s kindness for us, that He will use every circumstance to make us into who we need to be.

Discussion

As a group, list some of the character qualities of God.

Talk about if these character qualities are seen in the Bible or if they are simply ones you only feel He inhabits.

Now that you have a few, think back to Sunday’s message, would you have described God as kind?

Explanation

How can you see God being kind to you even in the midst of suffering?

Of the 8 things listed by Flavel, where do you see that the kindness of the Gospel is at work in redeeming your daily life?

Have you ever thought about a past affliction being part of God’s kindness?

Application - Read Ruth 1:8-9

How is God showing kindness in your family, marriage, parenting, etc.?

Where is God’s kindness on display in your workplace?

Where is God’s kindness seen even in the midst of hardship in the above places?

Mission – Read Exodus 34:6

What is an example of God being kind to you through your Gospel Community?

How can you communicate the kindness of “sanctified affliction” with others who do not know Christ without sounding condescending, insincere or cliché?

How could your Gospel Community better reflect God’s kindness to others at Element and beyond?

Homework: Read Ruth 1:19-22

Have you ever made an excuse for something?

What story do you tell about yourself that you have used to define who you are?

