

## 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](http://www.elementroots.org).

- The Element Team

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

#### *Women's Bible Study*

**Begins Wednesday, September 27 at 9:30-11am**

Fall Study: Gospel Fluency by Jeff Vanderstelt (Book)

Childcare is provided. Sign up at Welcome Center

or by emailing: [women@ourelement.org](mailto:women@ourelement.org)

#### *Stand Down Military Packs*

**Pick up and fill a pack between 9/17 - 10/8**

**to donate towards our County's**

**Veterans Stand Down annual event**

[connect@ourelement.org](mailto:connect@ourelement.org)

#### *Intersection (High School Midweek)*

**Meets Thursday from 6-8pm**

[efamily@ourelement.org](mailto:efamily@ourelement.org)

#### *Quesadilla Break (Middle School)*

**September 26th 369 Highland Drive, SM**

[efamily@ourelement.org](mailto:efamily@ourelement.org)

## Story Within The Story Week Four: Unstuck – Ruth 1:19-22



#### *Today's Verses:*

Ruth 1:20  
Numbers 22-23  
Deuteronomy 23:3

Ruth 1:16-17  
Ruth 1:19-22

## Story Within The Story Week Four: Unstuck – Ruth 1:19-22

As we close out the first chapter of Ruth today, we start to see the book of Ruth showing more and more God's bigger story of Redemption. Last week, we began to go deeper into the theology that God is sovereign, good, and kind; He keeps His word no matter what! Before we get to the next part of Ruth, we must first understand that all of Ruth's history is a redemptive love story.

Ruth starts in a place with many challenges for her, her family, and community. Ruth is a Moabite going into Israel, a country that despises her people. Ruth and Naomi both are single widows in a culture which requires a husband and property for her to have value. The odds seem overwhelmingly stacked against them. And yet, God has a plan to redeem her social status and her story. He does the same for us several thousand years later.

Thomas Merton once said, *"How do you expect to arrive at your own destination when you are traveling to another man's city?"* What he means is that many of us are in another person's city, another person's narrative of what our life should be instead of what God says about us. We say things like, "These are my genes." or "That's just my family." or "That's what I deserve and there is nothing I can do about it." The truth is there is nothing we "can do about it," but there is everything that Jesus has already done about it! The Gospel is that God has come to rescue us from ourselves and our sin...and that Jesus is making all things new, even us.

### Discussion

The cast of characters in Ruth's story would make for some "Must See TV." Elimelech runs scared because of events that have taken place in his life. Orpah believes she deserves to be happy. Naomi is a bitter, angry woman who is past her prime. And yet, God loves this motley crew so much more than they will ever know.

**Can you see yourself in any of these people?**

**What qualities describe you?**

**Does your character reflect your family of origin, or God's redemptive grace?**

### Explanation

**Have you ever made an excuse for something?**

**What story do you tell about yourself to define who you are?**

### Application - Read Ruth 1:19-22

**What is your story?**

**Is there an area of limbo (liminal) you are currently in?**

**Where do you see God's story and your story coming together?**

### Mission – Read Exodus 34:6

**What are the definitions or excuses in your life or community that God is actively redeeming?**

**How can your Gospel Community encourage you to move from a liminal space to a life reflective of God's grace?**

### Homework: Read Ruth 2:1-7

**Character matters: what does your character say about you?**

**What does the focus of your character usually result in when you look at the lives around you?**

