

## Finding Hope In A Disappointing World

*Lesson Two • Ruth 1:1-6*

### The Road to Nowhere

The Theme of the Book of Ruth:

To find hope in a disappointing world TURN TO GOD because He is at work in the worst of times!

The X-Factor:

The GRACE of God is the defining X-factor in our lives, which is always working according to God's sovereign purposes!

The Road to Nowhere:

### 1. The Choice: RUN to Moab! *Ruth 1:1b-2*

***Elimelech's Choice:***

Instead of turning back to the Lord, Elimelech TURNED HIS BACK on the Lord to live in Moab.

***The Sad Irony of Elimelech's Choice:***

Elimelech's name means "MY GOD IS KING" yet he made a life-defining decision that revealed God wasn't his king.

***Why do we make wrong choices?***

- We make wrong choices when we hear God but don't OBEY God.
- We make wrong choices when we walk by SIGHT and not by faith.

### 2. The Consequences: DEATH in Moab! *Ruth 1:3-5*

***Trading Famine for Funerals:***

Elimelech DIED in Moab and then ten years later both sons DIED in Moab after marrying Moabite women.

***What are the consequences of wrong choices?***

- Wrong choices often bring DIFFICULTY in life.
- Wrong choices often limit God's BLESSINGS in life.
- Wrong choices often cause BITTERNESS toward God.

### 3. The Circumstances: GRIEF in Moab! *Ruth 1:6*

***The Devastating Grief of Three Widows:***

Naomi is an ELDERLY widow all alone in a foreign land while Ruth and Orpah are CHILDLESS widows without any hope.

The Road Home: Where Hope Is Found!

No matter how far you roam from God, the road home begins by TURNING BACK to God!

*Then she [Naomi] arose with her daughters-in-law that she might return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had visited His people in giving them bread.*  
*Ruth 1:6*

*"Even now," declares the LORD, "return to Me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning." Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. Joel 2:12-13*