

Better Together

Fall 2021

Sermon Series Discussion Guide

Suncreek UMC

Week 3 (Sept. 19) “Better Together in Hard Times” Ruth

The lovely story of Ruth is set in the violent times of the Book of Judges. Ruth is a Moabite (foreign) woman who is married to an Israelite. When he dies, Ruth shows uncommon loyalty to her Israelite mother-in-law, Naomi, and deep devotion to the God of Israel. In the end she finds a new husband among her former husband’s relatives and through this marriage becomes the great-grandmother of David, Israel’s greatest king. The story of Ruth shows the blessings that came to a foreigner who turned to Israel’s God and so became part of the faithful lineage.

Discussion Questions:

- Compassionately recall a difficult time in your life. What were some of the things that helped you stay centered even in the toughest moments?
- In what ways has your identity or understanding of yourself changed having journeyed through a difficult time? What did you learn about yourself in that process?
- Ruth is a fairly short book. Consider reading it all the way through. What character do you most identify with? Why?
- What are the resources the church has to bind us together when we face hard times? Do some research this week to learn more about ministries that particularly help us face hard times together.
- What are some areas of our community where people are facing hard times? How might the church reach out to them and offer compassion?
- Identify someone who is going through a hard time. Pray for that person, and then put your prayer into action by saying or doing something for that person.