

WHO'S IN CONTROL?

The Book of Ruth

JOHN NEMMERS

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The questions below are designed to be used by Saylorville Church Cell Groups as they meet during the week following the Sunday morning message at Saylorville. The intent is not for groups to answer every question, but for leaders to use the questions as a guide as they tailor the discussion to the unique needs of their group. The Sunday message and these questions can be found each week at www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons.

CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- *What's your favorite love story? Why?*
- *Other than the Book of Ruth, what is your favorite love story in the Bible?*

APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

- **Remember** what you talked about last time you met. Anything you need to follow up on as a group?
- **Review** the notes you took on Sunday. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you heard?
- **Read** this week's passage together. In his message, **John Nemmers helped us see that the key to the Book of Ruth (and our own lives) is to understand God's providence.**

Providence: Not simply to "see forward", but to "see to it".

- What's the difference between seeing something before it happens, and making sure something happens? Remember, John used the example of taking out the trash at his house.

Four Providential Truths in the Book of Ruth:

1. **God's providence is over your world (Ruth 1:1, 6, 22, 2:3)**
 - What's your immediate response to the fact that God controls your world? Is it encouraging? Frightening? Comforting? Confusing? Explain your response.
 - How does Matthew 6:25-26 help us answer the question, "Does God really care about what happens in my life?" How might that change your perspective this week?
2. **God's providence is over your suffering (Ruth 1:3, 5)**
 - Instead of depending on a specific answer from God, we should be depending on His character. Is there a prayer you are praying right now in which you are asking God for your own will to be done instead of His will? Tell your group about that prayer, and commit to adjusting your focus.
3. **God's providence is over your sanctification (Ruth 1:1)**
 - When God saves you, He will keep you from looking like the world around you (Jude 24). What are some areas in which you still look like the world? Why not surrender those areas right now?
 - When God saves you, even when you stumble He will use your sin for good (Genesis 50:20). Because of God's providence, your sin is never too ugly for God to make beautiful. Can you think of examples in your life when God took your mistakes and turned them into something amazing?
4. **God's providence is over your salvation (Ruth 4:13, 17)**
 - Verse 13 says, "the Lord gave Ruth conception, and she bore a son..." What has God given you?
 - Have you accepted the Gospel personally? Share with your group about how God providentially saved you.

PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Take a few moments as a group to praise God for His providence.