Discussion Questions

Redeeming Love: Behind a Frowning Providence

Passage: Ruth 1:1-22

1. Read **Ruth 1:1**. What is the setting of the book of Ruth? Consult **Judges 21:25**. What was the spiritual state of Israel during this time, and how does this factor into our understanding of the text?

2. Read **Ruth 1:13**, **20-21**. What is the common thread tying together each of Naomi's statements? Have you ever waned in your trust in the Lord during trying times, or found yourself experiencing bitterness toward God? What is the solution when you find yourself in such a situation? Consult **Psalm 13**; **1 Peter 1:6-9**.

3. Read **Ruth 1:16b**. What are some of the other simple recitations of faith mentioned in Scripture? Consult **Joshua 24:15**; **Matthew 16:13-16**; **1 Timothy 1:15**. How would you, in the simplest of terms, express where your faith lies?

4. Read **Ruth 1:22**. Ruth is referred to as a "Moabitess." Who were the Moabites? How does God's inclusion of a Moabite woman in His plans and His purposes (**Matthew 1:5-6**) parallel the accounts of other figures in the Bible? Consult **Joshua 2:1-11**; **Hebrews 11:31**. In what ways are God's sovereign dealings in bringing events to their appointed end (**Ephesians 1:11**) an encouragement to you?

