

Yes!

Part 3, Ruth 1:1-5 & 4:13-17

1. Over the past two weeks Steve has shared that “Yes” is a part of the deep nature of God. The Bible is the story of a people discovering the Yes of God, a Yes that changes everything. He went on to say that one of the best ways for damaged souls to be healed is to allow the Yes of God to shine in that place where our No lives. This is about taking to the places of our fear and our guilt and our rejection, the promises of God contained in his word. What do you think?
2. Have a look through the story of Naomi as seen in Ruth chapters 1-4, with a special look at chapter 1 and 4. These are the bookends of the story. What changes can you see?
3. What are some of the key events that show Naomi and her journey with a God who is really saying Yes, even though chapter 1 is so full of No?
4. Have a look at some of these comments that follow and reflect on them with your group.

This is the story of God saying Yes and wanting us to say Yes to Him, even if the world around implies and says no! The providence of God, means God at work behind the scene, even when we cannot see it.

Is one of the few stories in the Bible told from a woman's point of view. It is the story of a woman's world, the issues she has to deal with. It reveals feminine values and feelings.

God usually works in the ordinary events of everyday life. Miracles do happen, but God regularly accomplishes his purposes and blesses his people through routine occurrences. If we learn faithfulness in the everyday, we are equipped to be faithful when crises come.

It is an undeniable fact that many of the life problems we grapple with in the present are the result of what has happened to us in the past, whether as a result of our own deliberate choices or because of circumstances which were quite beyond our control.

More important than the circumstance of the past are the ways in which we have decided to react to them.

Things in life do not happen by chance. God rules. How else can we comfort one another when we are facing life's tragedies? If we deny God's sovereignty, we have to say, in effect, that God's back was turned, which means that either He didn't know, or didn't care. What sort of a God is that? No, we have to admit that we cannot know why a particular tragedy has happened.

5. Share this prayer together:
Lord, help me to see your gracious hand in the good times and to trust your gracious hand in the hard times. And today, be with me in my words and thoughts, relationships and actions, that you might be honoured in them all.