

Overcoming Bitterness with Sweet Faith

January 8, 2023 | Ruth 1 | The Light of Redeeming Love | Pastor Mike Foster

- Beware Bitterness (learning from Naomi)
 - o Bitterness comes for you

 - o Bitterness lies to you

 - o Bitterness consumes you

 - o But bitterness can be overcome!

- Embrace Sweet Faith (leaning from Ruth)
 - o Sweet faith does not listen to voices that lead away from the Lord

 - o Sweet faith acts upon God's Word

 - o Sweet faith serves others

 - o Sweet faith waits while God works on His time

What bitter root can you pull up?

What sweet step can you take?

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you most from the message?
2. When you think of bitterness, what pictures or words come to mind?
3. In what ways have you seen people affected by bitterness? How have you seen bitterness impact a person's relationship with God? With other?
4. Describe a time when you faced bitter circumstances. How were you tempted to become bitter? How did you give into or overcome this temptation?
5. Read Hebrews 12:14-17. Describe a time when you pulled up a bitter root in your heart. How did God help you to do this?
6. Read Genesis 50:18-20 and Isaiah 38:15-17. What do Joseph and Hezekiah have in common with Ruth in the way they viewed and responded to their trials?
7. Read Ephesians 4:31-32. What do you learn about bitterness in these verses? What does "sweet faith" look like in v. 32?
8. Read Proverbs 14:10. What does it mean that "the heart knows its own bitterness?" Be honest... are you bitter with God? Bitter with others? Take some time to confess any bitterness.
9. Are there any "sweet steps" you need to take today in response to what Jesus has said to you?
10. Spend some time praying for one another to experience the sweetness of Jesus and to share that sweetness with others.

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

Pick up a Ruth Scripture Journal in the foyer!

Meditate on Ruth 1, Ephesians 4:31-32, Hebrews 12:14-17, Proverbs 14:10, Proverbs 4:23

Watch this overview of Ruth – <https://bit.ly/ruthoverview>

A good overview of Ruth for kids – <https://bit.ly/ruthoverviewforkids>

Read *Overcoming Bitterness* by Steve Viars

Read "What Causes the Root of Bitterness" – <https://bit.ly/therootofbitterness>

Read "Bitter Root, Rotten Fruit" – <https://bit.ly/bitterrootrottenfruit>

Read about the freedom of forgiveness – <https://bit.ly/freedomofforgiveness>

Listen to "Seasons" – <https://bit.ly/seasonshillsong>

You can also find these notes on the youversion bible app
search for Forcey Bible Church