

Fellowship Group Questions for *The Power of Redeeming Love*
Sermon #1 – *Doing What Seems Right*

We're told in Ruth 1:1 that this story takes place "when the judges ruled in Israel." Read Judges 2:11-19 to review what this period of Israel's history was like.

By the time we get to the end of the book of Judges things are really bad in Israel. Take a look at Judges 21:25 that summarizes the condition of Israel.

Read Leviticus 26:1-5; 18-20. When the story of Ruth opens up there is a famine in Israel. According to what you read in Leviticus 26 what would famine conditions indicate?

What kinds of "famine" do you think God uses in our lives to get our attention?

Elimelech's solution to the famine was to take his family and move to Moab. According to 2 Chronicles 7:14 what should he and the rest of the people have done in order to bring healing to the land?

Hawaii is known as the "Aloha State." Based on its history why could Moab be known as "the Land of What Seems Right?"

Is there a time that you can share when you experienced a crisis that tested your commitment in doing things God's way?

Elimelech's motive for moving to Moab was good—he wanted to save his family but ultimately, he did the wrong thing for the right reason. Can you think of other situations where a person's motive might be good but they end up with the wrong solution?

How does Hosea 6:1-3 relate to the final lesson from Sunday's sermon, "God Always Provides A Road Back To Blessing?"

Which one of the four lessons from Sunday's sermon spoke most to you?

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Sermon #1 – *Doing What Seems Right* (*with answers*)

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By the time we get to the end of the book of Judges things are really bad in Israel. Take a look at Judges 21:25 that summarizes the condition of Israel.

Read Leviticus 26:1-5; 18-20. When the story of Ruth opens up there is a famine in Israel. According to what you read in Leviticus 26 what would famine conditions indicate? **It would appear that at this point Israel was in a period of disobedience and that is why God was sending the famine. God was bringing famine so that the people would turn back to Him. When the land, which initially was described as "the land flowing with milk and honey" didn't produce it was to cause the people to ask, why?**

What kinds of "famine" do you think God uses in our lives to get our attention?

Elimelech's solution to the famine was to take his family and move to Moab. According to 2 Chronicles 7:14 what should he and the rest of the people have done in order to bring healing to the land?

Hawaii is known as the "Aloha State." Based on its history why could Moab be known as "the Land of What Seems Right?" **Read Genesis 19:30-38. Lot's daughters did what seemed right. They didn't see any other way of producing offspring and so they did what seemed right in their own eyes. This is how the nation of Moab was founded—as the result of someone doing what seemed right. So, it seems ironic that by doing what seemed right in his eyes Elimelech would end up in Moab.**

Is there a time that you can share when you experienced a crisis that tested your commitment in doing things God's way?

Elimelech's motive for moving to Moab was good—he wanted to save his family but ultimately, he did the wrong thing for the right reason. Can you think of other situations where a person's motive might be good but they end up with the wrong solution? **Examples: You have a desire to help out a charity or a good cause that needs money so you steal money from your workplace. You don't want to see babies aborted so you blow up an abortion clinic. You want to see your co-workers trust Christ as Savior so instead of doing the work that the company is paying you for you use that time evangelizing your co-workers.**

How does Hosea 6:1-3 relate to the final lesson from Sunday's sermon, "God Always Provides A Road Back To Blessing?" **There are times that because of our bad choices, because of doing what seems right in our own eyes, that God has to allow us to get broken and bruised. According to Hosea when we return, when we go back to Him, He's ready to bandage us up and heal us.**

Which one of the four lessons from Sunday's sermon spoke most to you?

- 1) God's Warnings Are Not Empty Threats**
- 2) Crisis Will Reveal The Depth Of Your Commitment To Doing Things God's Way**
- 3) "Good" Motives Can Lead To Disasterous Consequences**
- 4) God Always Provides A Road Back To Blessing**