



Strength for the Journey

“The Life God Loves to Partner With”

Ruth 2



Notes:

3. How tempting is it for you to see Ruth and Boaz as something other than real people, like you, because they’re “Bible people”?

4. If Ruth and Boaz had made a mistake, would God have had to come up with a new plan?

5. What does Joe mean when he says that God manages our mistakes toward His providential end?

Dotted lines for taking notes.

Digging Deeper:

If your group has enough time (i.e., you’ve listened to the audio on your own), answer one or more of these optional questions.

1. How might Ruth and Boaz have responded if they had decided to compete rather than converge with God’s providence?

2. Do you agree with Joe that history is linear rather than cyclical? If so, toward what end is history moving?

3. How do you keep the concept of a sovereign, providential God together with the concept of human beings as free moral agents? How do you feel about Joe’s statement, “God is a mystery—don’t wreck the mystery”?

Strength through Sharing:

1. How can you relate, in your own life, to the principle that if we compete with God’s providence, we lose?

2. In what way are you struggling now to converge with God’s plan for your life and to surrender to His ways and His will?



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Strength through Prayer:

Spend a few moments as a group in silent, personal prayer. Thank God that Jesus Christ is the Victor and that God’s providence is sure.

You may want to begin your prayer with these words:

“Dear Lord, I recognize that Your providential plan is moving toward victory. Thank You for managing even my mistakes toward Your providential end. I want to converge rather than compete with Your plan. I yield to Your ways and to Your will. May I capture the joy of surrender that puts me into the flow of Your wonderful work.”

When you are finished with this time for silent, personal prayer, you may want to move into a time of group prayer, praying for one another.

Closing Call to Action:

How do we know what God’s provident plan is in our lives?

God is pretty consistent. The more you can find in God’s Word about His ways, about how He handles certain situations, the more you can read God’s specific points of His will. The more you learn about how God operates, the more you can target where your life ought to be to converge with His plan.

It’s like an on-ramp onto an interstate highway: We have to yield. We are not competing with God’s plan; we are here to converge with God’s plan. And surrender is the operative word. As we surrender to the ways and to the will of God, we move into the traffic of God’s providence, which is always going somewhere good.

My prayer is that you will come out of this study with a deep commitment to converge with God’s provident work in your life, to never compete, and to capture the joy of surrendering to His will and His ways so that you can merge into the flow of His wonderful work.

Dotted lines for taking notes.