

## **My Story** // Stay and Go

Ruth is a great story! Elimilech, Naomi, and two sons, because of famine, leave Bethlehem and sojourn in Moab. While there, the sons took wives: Orpah, Ruth. When the men died, Naomi decides to return home. Orpah kisses her goodbye. Ruth clings to Naomi and leaves her father, mother, and native land. Boaz, a kinsman, marries her and redeems them from poverty. Jesus' lineage is preserved!

Today, we conclude our series, "My Story". We've realized, "The decisions we make today determine the story we will tell tomorrow." Last week, we looked at Hebrews 12:1-2. We decided to STOP the things in life that weigh us down, the sin that clings so closely. And, we decided to START running with endurance the life set before us by looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith!

Today, let's learn how in the story of our life to STAY and GOV. Sometimes, the best decision you can make is to stay when it is easier to go. Sometimes, the best decision you can make is to go when it is easier to stay. For Ruth, she chose to stay with Naomi and embraced her lodge, people, land, and God. But, she also went with her, knowing the poverty and hardship being widows would bring.

What about you? We've all asked questions like...

- Should I stay at my current job or apply for another?
- Should I stay in my \_\_\_\_ relationship or find a new one?
- Should I stay in a cold weather climate or move south?
- Should I stay a USPS mail carrier or become a pastor?
- (Jesus) Should I stay in the Garden or go to the cross?
- Should I stay quiet or share Christ with others/culture?

We all want to live a story worth telling! This week, wrestle with the statements: I decided to stay \_\_\_\_\_. I decided to go \_\_\_\_\_. When unsure of which way is best, remember, "Wherever you go, if you go with God, you'll be good, because God is good!" Pray for God to give you Faith > Fear. Behold the wisdom in Proverbs 27:17 (NIV), "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."

Let's pray. Lord, in 2 Thessalonians 3:13 (ESV), Paul says, "As for you, do not grow weary in doing good!" As baptized believers, help us live as new creations in Christ. Help us throw off every weight, sin that clings so closely. Help us run with endurance the race set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith. Help us live the story we want to tell, today and in the future!

Amen.

## **Scripture Reading**

“In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years, and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband. Then she arose with her daughters-in-law to return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the fields of Moab that the Lord had visited his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she was with her two daughters-in-law, and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, ‘Go, return each of you to her mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The Lord grant that you may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband!’ Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their

voices and wept. And they said to her, 'No, we will return with you to your people.' But Naomi said, 'Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? Have I yet sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters; go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, even if I should have a husband this night and should bear sons, would you therefore wait till they were grown? Would you therefore refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, for it is exceedingly bitter to me for your sake that the hand of the Lord has gone out against me.' Then they lifted up their voices and wept again. And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. And she said, 'See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.' But Ruth said, 'Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you.' And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more." - Ruth 1:1-18 (ESV)

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

## **Message Series**

My Story

## **Message Topic**

I Decided to Stay and Go

## **Message Points**

- I decided to stay \_\_\_\_\_.
- I decided to go \_\_\_\_\_.

NOTES:

## **Memory Verse**

“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” - 2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)

## **Small Group Questions**

- In 5, 10, 15 years, or even at the end of life, what do you want your “story” to be? What do you want to be remembered by others for?

- Read Ruth 1:1-22, 2:1-23. Why did Ruth choose to stay with Naomi? Why did she choose to go, leaving behind her father, mother, and land?
- Based on your personal experiences, how do you typically decide when to stay? How do you typically decide when to go? Give examples.
- When have you made a decision to stay when it was easier to go? When have you made a decision to go when it was easier to stay?
- What does this mean? “The decisions we make today determine the story we will tell tomorrow.” How will live the story you want to tell?

## **YouVersion**

None

