

Valley Bible Church - Sermon Study Questions

Study Aid for the Sermon from March 15, 2009 Bitterness or Blessing: Seeing the Hand of the Lord Ruth 1:1-14

Observing the text

When was a time in your life when everything really seemed to come down on you and fall apart on you?

Where is the Lord in these kinds of life experiences? Meditate on Romans 8:26–30 and write down how verse 28 is influenced by the surrounding verses. Also note other comforting truths about God’s relationship to us.

How have you been tempted to lose hope in the midst of trials? Spend some time reading through and praying through Psalm 71.

What is essential in order to trust in God according to Psalm 71?

Applying the sermon

Why does the Lord allow hardship to come His children's way (James 1:2–4; Hebrews 12:7–11; Romans 5:1–5)?

Read through Psalm 10 and write down observations of who God is in times of trouble.

Spend some time in meditation on Ruth 1:1–14 and ask the Lord to search your heart to see if there is any bitterness. Write down what you must do in order to see that hardship, that you are bitter towards God about, as a blessing. What is God teaching you through it?