**Restoration Ministries – Webinar Notes**

 **FOUR BASIC NEEDS OF EVERY PERSON AND SPOUSE**

 **Introduction to study on Ruth**

If you have had the experience of becoming a parent and holding your baby in your arms, you began to realize how dependent your baby was on you. You began meeting the great variety of needs of your baby. As your child got older, they began to meet their own needs in healthy ways. They transition from being dependent on us to becoming mature responsible adults able to meet their own needs.

What are some **physical needs** all of us have and will continue to have?

There are also deep **inner needs** all of us have.

Who meets your deepest needs? Who do you rely on the most and who do you go to first to get your deepest needs met?

What deep **inner needs** does every person (spouse) crave in their heart and soul?

**1. Acceptance** – Knowing you (we) are loved, needed and wanted by others.

**2.** **Security** – Knowing you (we) are emotionally and physically safe, protected, and provided

 for in a relationship so trust is present and thriving in that relationship.

**3. Identity** – Knowing you (we) as a person or a spouse are significant and special. Knowing

 you have value as a person and you are valued by God, your spouse, and others.

**4. Purpose** – Knowing you (we) and your spouse have a reason for living and God has

 a special plan for our lives (marriage).

Where (to what or to whom) do people (we) often look for fulfillment of their deepest needs?

The Lord Jesus answers the important question of who we must look to for the fulfillment of our deepest needs.

 **John 4:10,13** – Jesus spoke with a woman who looked to men to meet her deepest needs.

 **John 6:35 –** Jesus spoke to people who just wanted to see and benefit from a miracle He

 performed.

 **John 7:37-38 –** Jesus spoke to religious people who looked to the wrong source to meet inner

 needs.

Who alone can meet our deepest inner needs?

What happens when people go into marriage believing their spouse will meet these basic needs?

When a person does not allow God to meet their deepest needs, they will place their hopes for fulfillment to the nearest person, or resource or something in this life. This is **co-dependence.**

What problems develop when we put our hopes (become co-dependent) on anyone or anything other than the Lord Jesus to meet these needs?

1. We will be **disappointed.**

2. We will **lack the inner resources** to love others and live successfully.

3. We may be **hurt and offended** by the one we trust to meet our deepest needs.

What does God’s Word say about trusting anyone or anything but Him to satisfy the deepest needs He has placed within us? – Jer. 17:5-8

God has also designed us to be involved with Him in meeting these basic needs. How?

 1. In a healthy interdependent relationship in marriage – Gen. 2:18, Eph. 5:31

 2. In healthy family relationships – Eph. 6:4

 3. In relationship with other believers – Heb. 10:24-25

Every day we are making decisions. Some decisions are small and insignificant. Other decisions

affect us and others for years and even throughout eternity.

In the O.T. book of Ruth we find a love story that illustrates a family who made wrong decisions resulting in **a sense of rejection**, a **loss of security**, and **losing their identity** and **purpose** as the people of God. We also will see **God at work to restore members of this family** back to their homeland where they met Boaz who is a picture of Jesus Christ. Through Boaz they experienced **acceptance** instead of rejection, **security** instead of insecurity, **a new identity and purpose**. Likewise, through Jesus Christ we can have these 4 needs met in our lives, marriages and families.

In Ruth 1:1-2 we find the story of:

**1. An Israelite father and a whole family making some wrong decisions.**

 1) His name was Elimelech - vs. 1, 2b

What did his name mean? What did his actions reveal?

 He and his family lived in Bethlehem Judah in the land of Israel.

 Bethlehem - “House of Bread”, Judah - “Praise”

What was taking place in Judah? What did Elimelech decide to do?

 This was a decision based upon sight and out of fear, and not based upon seeking God’s

 will and wisdom.

 2) What was wrong with this Israelite moving his family to Moab?

 The Moabites were ungodly people who worshiped idols. cmp. Numbers 21:29

 The worship of Chemosh involved sacrificing children in “the fire”.

 The Moabites were descendants of Abraham’s nephew Lot. – Gen. 19:36-37

 The Moabites feared Israel would conquer them, so their king hired a false prophet named

 Balaam to CURSE Israel. Every time he opened his mouth to curse Israel, he blessed them.

 Finally, Balaam suggested the Moabites could curse Israel by sending their daughters to

 seduce the Israelites men to commit fornication and intermarry with them and entice them

 to worship their idols. This is what happened (Numbers 25) and God sent a plague that

 killed 24,000 Israelites.

 What does Satan try to do to spouses?

 3) Cmp. Duet. 23:3-4 - In the law, God gave specific instructions that Moabites could never

 enter the congregation of the Lord and Israelites were not to mingle or intermarry with

 them. Cmp. Duet. 7:1-6

 4) What does the name Moab mean?

 In Ps. 108:9 God said - “Moab is my wash pot”

 Dr. J. Vernon McGee says this can be translated **“Moab is my garbage can”**.

 5) When Elimelech decided to move his family to Moab he was disobeying God’s Word.

 He moved them from Bethlehem (House of Bread) Judah (Praise) to the place God called

 His garbage can.

 **Personal Application** – When times are hard and there is a drought in life or in a marriage

 relationship, do we stay in the place God in His Word directs us to stay, or do we leave?

 Cmp. Prov. 3:5-6

 What happened to Elimelech in Moab? - v.3

 6) His sons married Moabite women - v.4

 God had forbidden His people to intermarry with the unbelieving peoples about them.

 Cmp. Duet. 7:1-4, 6, Ezra 9:1-3, Nehemiah 13:23-27

 Orpah and Ruth were idolaters. (Cmp. Ruth 1:15) This was a **wrong decision** and contrary

 to God’s Word. However, later Ruth became a believer in Jehovah, and God in His grace

 overruled this wrong decision.

 Believers should not be presumptuous to assume God will graciously overrule the wrong

 decision of marrying a non-believer. – 2 Cor. 6:14-18

 A few years both sons died.

 7) What was Naomi’s condition because of these painful losses?

 What does her request to change her name from Naomi to Mara indicate?

 She told her daughter in laws “the LORD’S hand has gone out against me!” – v13b

 Felt **rejected** by God.

 What does bitterness do to a person?

 Bitterness blinds people so they don’t see how God can use even the painful things in life,

 for good. Cmp. Heb. 12:11-13,15

 She was destitute – feeling **insecure** instead of secure. From her perspective, there was no

 one to protect or provide for her.

 Her **identity** had changed. How?

 Gen. 2:18 – “The LORD God said, it is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a

 helper suitable for him.” What does this verse indicate about a wife’s God given identity

 and purpose?

 Discussion: What are some ways in which a Christian wife completes her husband?

 Naomi also lost her sense of **purpose.**

 What can cause a spouse to experience these same 4 losses?

**2. Naomi decides to return to Bethlehem.**

1)She heard the famine was over – v. 6b

 **Why** was she returning? Was it to get back into the will of God, back to where she could

 worship God with His people?

 She was returning because of a **change of circumstances** rather than a **change of heart.**

Ruth 1:19- 21

 Many times, before there can be a change of heart in a person there has to be a change of

 circumstances.

 Example - The story of the lost son in Luke 15:11-24

 How did he leave home?

 What happened as a result of living in disobedience to God in a far country?

 How did he come home? Empty

 Who and what did he find when he returned home?

 What did his father do? vs. 22-24.

 2) The Parable of the Lost Son is a picture of the full restoration we receive as believers

 when we confess our sin and return to our Heavenly Father? Cmp. 1 John 1:9

 It’s also a picture of what God can do in a marriage that has suffered because of

 disobedience to God and how God can restore a husband and wife’s relationship.

**3. Naomi’s daughter–in–laws began this trip with her.**

 1) Why did she urge them to stay in Moab? - v.9

 So, they could find another husband. – v. 9

 She said “may the LORD grant that each of you will **find rest** (acceptance and security) in

 the home of another husband”. A husband who would protect and provide for them.

 Husbands – Our wife must find rest (acceptance & security) in her relationship with us.

 Was Naomi’s advice godly advice? If not, why not?

 2) Beware of advice or counsel from a believer who is out of fellowship with God. – Ps. 1:1

**4. What Did Ruth Decide to Do? - Ruth 1:16-17**

 She made the decision to embrace Israel’s God as her God, and make Naomi’s people her

 people.

 God used Ruth to bless Naomi. Together they would find **acceptance** instead of **rejection,**

 **security** instead of **insecurity**, a new **identity** and **purpose** that impacts the world yet today.

**Discussion Questions:**

Moab was a forbidden land for the Israelites. What forbidden places do husbands and wives sometimes run to when there is a drought (stress) in their life or relationship?

 Some suggestions to stimulate discussion:

 1. Placing their children, work, hobbies, making money, or family members in a place of

 priority above their relationship with God or each other.

 2. Sexual sin – Using porn, or fantasy, emotional or physical adultery, or some other form

 of sexual immorality.

 3. Other addictions – Video games, excessive use of social media, alcohol, drugs, etc.

 4. Hobbies that consume

What are some ways that a wife completes her husband?