

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB CHRISTMAS

Join us this Friday (Dec 7th)
from 4-7 at the B&G Club
to be “shopping elves”
as we help the kids
“shop” for presents
for their families



GRACE BREVARD YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Wednesday Dec 12th


**Leave from Ingles at 5:25.
we'll be back at 8:30**

**We are going to Grace Mills
River to join their youth**

**Bring \$5 wrapped
"white elephant" gift
and a snack to share.**



YEARENDGIVING



If you have "year end" giving above your regular giving we'd invite you to give it to our Building Fund by simply designating it to "building fund".

Like other offerings, it is tax deductible and you will receive a donation recap at the beginning of 2018

THE BOOK OF RUTH

ADVENT
WORSHIP
SERIES



Ruth 1

¹ 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. ² 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. ³ But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴ These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years, ⁵ and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

⁶ 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. ⁷ 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. ⁸ 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. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ And they said to her, “No, we will return with you to your people.”

¹¹ 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? ¹² 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, ¹³ 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.” ¹⁴ Then they lifted up their voices and wept again. And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

¹⁵ And she said, “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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.” ¹⁸ And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more.

¹⁹ So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. And when they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them. And the women said, “Is this Naomi?” ²⁰ She said to them, “Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. ²¹ I went away full, and the LORD has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi, when the LORD has testified against me and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?”

²² So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabite her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. And they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.

Judges 21:25

In those days there was no king in Israel.
Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

The Judges Cycle

1.
God's people
turn from
Him

2.
God disciplines
them

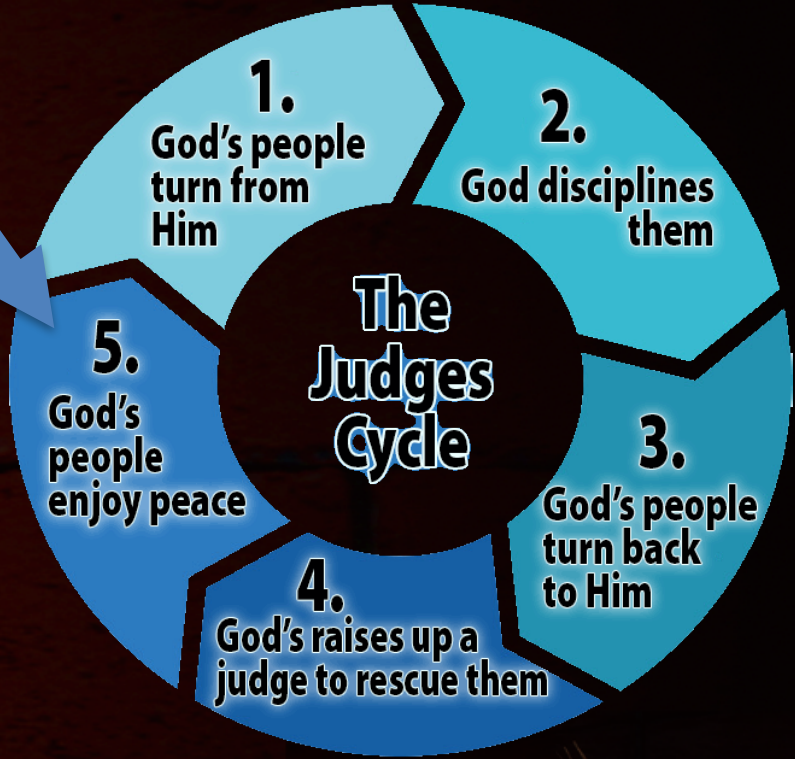
3.
God's people
turn back
to Him

4.
God's raises up a
judge to rescue them

5.
God's people
enjoy peace

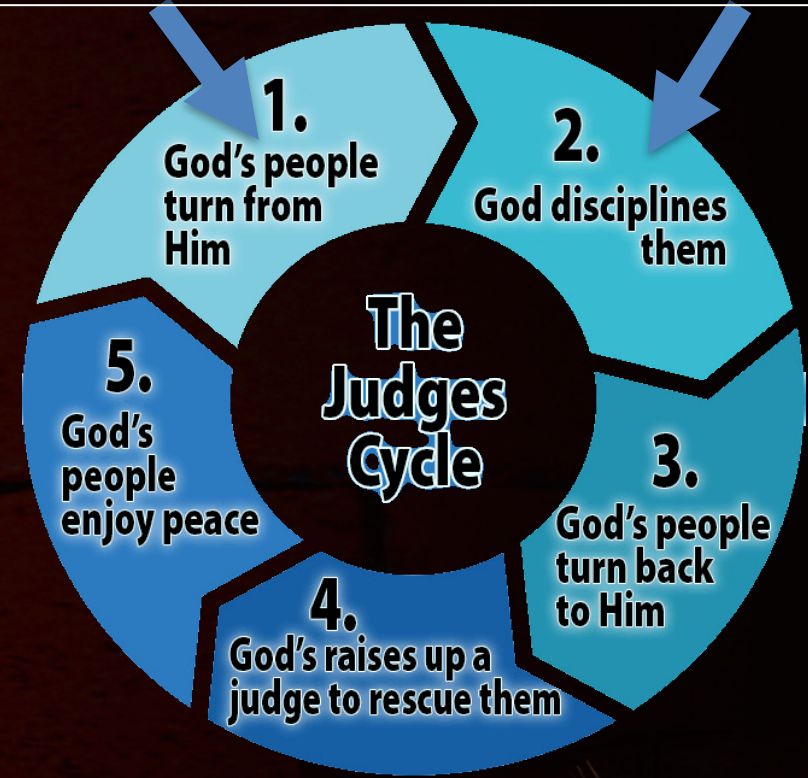
1:1 In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of *Bethlehem* (“*house of bread*”) in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, *he and his wife and his two sons.*

Stage 5
From Good...



1:1 In the days when the judges ruled there was a **famine** in the land, and a man of Bethlehem (“house of bread”) in Judah went to **sojourn in the country of Moab**, he and his wife and his two sons.

Stage 1 & 2
Famine in the “House of Bread”
Response: Go to Moab



What difficulties are making you “hungry”?

Relational

Internal

Vocational

How do you respond to difficulties?

Medicate

Ignore

Control

How we deal reveals our true belief

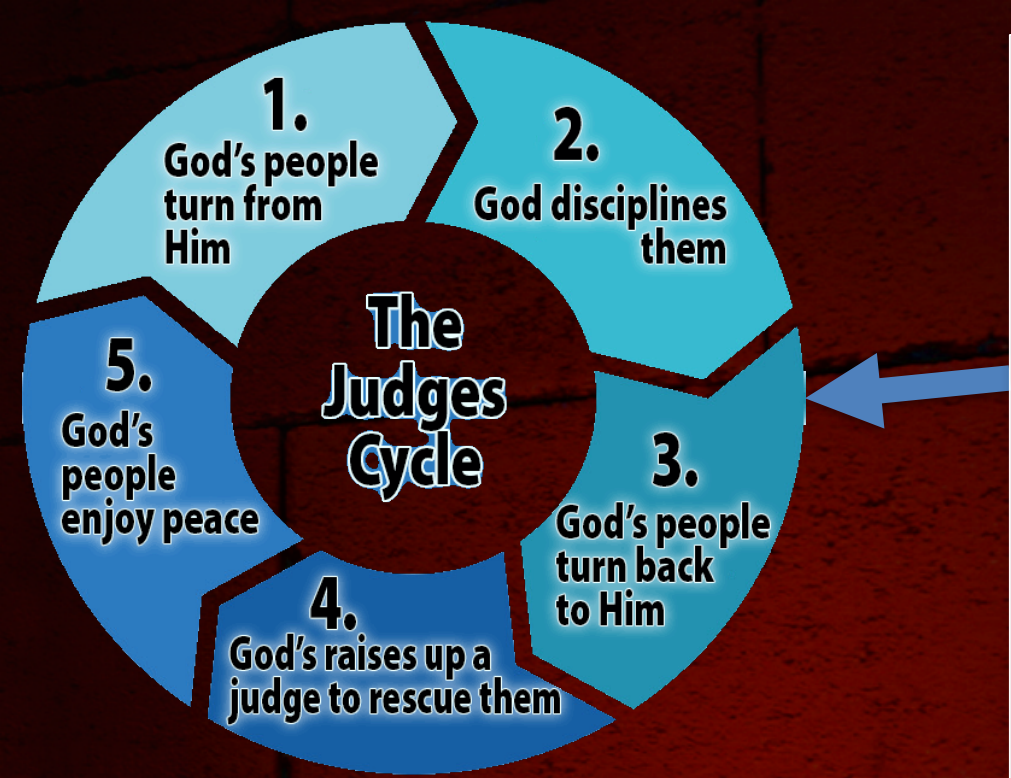
John 6:35

Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst...³⁷ All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.

Stage 1 & 2

Famine in the “House of Bread”
Response: Go to Moab





“God won’t give you anything you can’t handle”

Yes AND No

2 Corinthians 1:8b-9

For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. ⁹ Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. **But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.**

³ But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴ These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years, ⁵ and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

**From Good
To Bad
To Worse**

Cultural Vulnerability of Women

BUT – The whole book of Ruth is told from a woman's perspective and speaks about the bold strength and faith of women.

⁶ 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*.

**A Glimmer
of Hope**

**Weeping
and
Clinging**

¹¹ 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? ... No, my daughters, for it is exceedingly *bitter* to me for your sake that the hand of the LORD has gone out against me.” ¹⁴ Then they lifted up their voices and wept again. And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth *clung* to her.



RUTH

¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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.”

Because of Love and facing enormous risk, Ruth intertwines their destinies together.

Ruth is an excellent example, but she will ultimately fail...

...we need someone to intertwine our destinies with His.

¹⁹ So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. And when they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them. And the women said, “Is this Naomi?” ²⁰ She said to them, “Do not call me Naomi (which means “sweet”); call me Mara (which means “bitter”), for the Almighty has dealt very **bitterly** with me. ²¹ I went away **full**, and the LORD has brought me back **empty**.”

Can you really blame her?

When have you felt bitter emptiness, even when others have tried to help and comfort you?

But God has a gracious relentless pursuit!

Gospel Contrasts

Dead & Alive (1:8)

Bitter & Sweet (1:20)

Empty & Full (1:21)

Without & With (1:5, 8)

Matthew 2:6

“And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.”

**1100 years later
in Bethlehem...**

“Immanuel”

Matthew 1:23

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear
a son, and they shall call his name
Immanuel” (which means, God with us).



RUTH

John 16:7

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.

**By being Forsaken on the cross,
Jesus took our destinies,
our withoutness...**

**...and intertwined our
destiny with His WITNESS.**

²² So Naomi **returned**, and Ruth the Moabite her daughter-in-law with her, who **returned** from the country of Moab. And they **came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.**

Because we have the Immanuel:

- **We can safely “return”**
- **We can no longer be in famine**
- **We can be WITH others**

Matthew 28:19

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”