

Walk Thru the Bible Presents:



REFUGE

FINDING HOME IN A WORLD OF CHANGE

PHIL TUTTLE

Course Workbook

WALK THRU THE BIBLE®
BIBLICAL  CHARACTER
S E R I E S



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REFUGE: Finding Home in a World of Change

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TAKE A WALK. CHANGE THE WORLD.

*Helping people everywhere live God's Word . . .
and love God's Word.*

That's where "igniting passion for God's Word," a phrase we use frequently, comes in. Our mission is to create a path to help people encounter God, to connect them with His heart and open their ears to His voice. We believe that making disciples is more than simply making converts; it's helping people cultivate a dynamic, growing relationship with God. And igniting passion for His Word is a vital part of that mission.

How do we do that?

By getting people into His Word every way we know how, and with an approach that's engaging, relevant, and memorable—even exciting and fun! In our live events, we race through the Old or New Testament in a few hours. With our devotionals, we linger in the Bible over the course of a year. With our small group resources, we walk through the Bible—actually portions of it or topics from it—in a few weeks. We partner with local churches around the world to provide teaching, tools, and training to pastors, leaders, and all other believers with solid, biblical resources. And over the course of four decades, our discipleship materials have reached millions of people. Walk Thru the Bible ignites passion for God's Word through innovative live events, inspiring biblical resources, and a global impact that changes lives worldwide . . . including yours.

Visit us at www.walkthru.org



Step into the Story: Innovative Live Events

Experience live events that unveil God's Word as you've never known it before. Our live events tell God's story in a way that's interactive, relevant, and fun. As you're learning God's story, you're developing insight into yours—and enjoying an adventure that will last a lifetime. We offer more than 10 different live events, including *otLIVE* and *ntLIVE*.



Take a Walk: Biblical Resources

Delve into resources that impact your spiritual journey wherever you are. For more than three decades, we have developed resources that help people grow in their relationship with God and apply His Word to daily life. We do that through Bibles, small group studies, devotional magazines, books, and more.



Change the World: Global Impact

Get involved in a global ministry that impacts lives around the world. Walk Thru the Bible is dedicated to developing a global network of pastors and Christian leaders who make life-changing biblical resources available worldwide. Our global network has helped to change lives, preserve families, address social needs, and inspire churches in more than 130 countries. Reaching their communities in dramatic ways, our global partners are helping to change the world, one person at a time, through the power of God's Word.

Visit us at www.walkthru.org

REFUGE: *Finding Home in a World of Change*

It was a time not unlike our own. When the judges ruled, the nation of Israel indulged in radical individualism, frequent wars, idol worship, and more.

In the Book of Ruth, a famine drove one family of four to a neighboring country only to suffer devastating losses there. Ten years later, the grieving widow returns home with a foreign daughter-in-law.

Although Naomi thought she had nothing left, God surprised her with His faithfulness in the midst of her crisis of faith. He brought joy from grief, fullness from emptiness, and a birth that continued the line through which Christ, the Son of God, would be born generations later.

In *Refuge*, we will see how God used a grieving widow, a faithful foreigner, and a man of standing to show us that ultimately, we find our home, our refuge, in Him.

Learning together with you,

Phil Tuttle

Philip S. Tuttle
President and CEO
Walk Thru the Bible





REFUGE

FINDING HOME IN A WORLD OF CHANGE

LOSING HOME

SESSION 1

STEP INTO THE STORY

Bethlehem is known as “The House of Bread.” Ironically, a famine drove Naomi and her family from Bethlehem to Moab. Even believers face adversity.

The Lord upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down. The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing (Psalm 145:14-16).



REFUGE Losing Home

RUTH

The Book of Ruth takes place during the time of the judges. The days of the judges were characterized by:

- Weak _____
- Radical individualism
- No absolute truth
- Idol worship
- Frequent wars

Judges 21:25

In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit.

Ruth 1:1

¹ In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab.

Though Bethlehem means _____, a famine forced the family to move to Moab.

Displacement has been a common theme throughout human history. It happened in Bible times, and it happens today. For example:

- Jacob’s family went to Egypt to find food
- Persecution caused the early Christians to scatter
- Pilgrims came to the New World to worship freely
- Africans were taken and brought to the West as slaves
- The potato famine drove the Irish to America and other places
- Stalin exiled dissidents to Siberia
- Islamic extremists are forcing Syrians and Iraqis to flee for their lives
- Conflict and poverty are driving Africans to migrate to Europe and beyond

Displacement can be either _____ or _____.

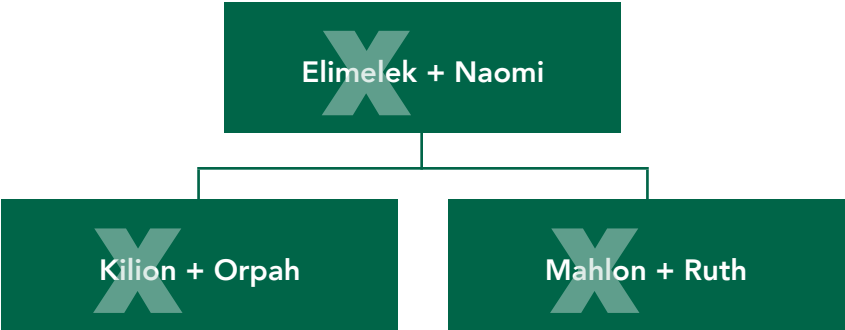
Displacement can also be caused by more common events like education, employment, evacuation, or _____.

STEP INTO
THE STORY

Ruth 1:2-5

² The man's name was Elimelek, his wife's name was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. Thy were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to Moab and lived there. ³ Now Elimelek, Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴ They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, ⁵ both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband.

The Lord is near to
the brokenhearted
and saves those who
are crushed in spirit
(Psalm 34:18).



Naomi's displacement later became _____, _____
and _____.



STEP INTO THE STORY

Three different
responses to loss:

Naomi – *disappointed with God*

Orpah – *clings to the familiar*

Ruth – *takes a risky step of faith*

DISCUSS WHAT YOU'VE HEARD

1. What's the most difficult displacement, loss, or grief you've ever experienced?
2. What parallels do you see between the time of the judges and today?
3. Why did Naomi and Elimelek leave Judah? Have you ever had to leave your home because of circumstances outside of your control? Looking back, can you see how God worked in that situation?



STEP INTO THE STORY

FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

1. Read Psalm 147:3. Have you ever been devastated by loss as Naomi was? Did you turn to God in your grief? Have you allowed Him to bind up your wounds?
2. Have you ever experienced a hard good-bye? What happened? If it still feels painful, ask God for His comfort and encouragement.
3. Have you ever “recognized God” in someone else? What did you see in that person? How did it affect you?

Naomi no longer recognizes God in her life, but Ruth sees God in Naomi.

The heart knows its own bitterness, and no stranger shares its joy (Proverbs 14:10).





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It was a time not unlike our own. When the judges ruled, the nation of Israel indulged in radical individualism, frequent wars, idol worship, and more.

In the Book of Ruth, Naomi — having fled a famine only to suffer devastating losses — returns home, grieving and accompanied by her foreign daughter-in-law. Naomi thought she had nothing left, but God surprised her with His faithfulness in the midst of her crisis of faith. We can learn from this story as we see how Naomi experienced:

- Losing Home
- Finding Hope
- Losing Hope
- Finding Faith
- Finding Favor
- Finding Home

In *Refuge*, we will see how God used a grieving widow, a faithful foreigner, and a man of standing to show us that ultimately, we find our home, our refuge, in Him.

Walk Thru the Bible

Helping people everywhere live God's Word isn't just a mission statement to us—it's our passion. We know the key to life change is passion for God and His Word, and we work in over 130 countries to bring His truth to the world.

When you see what your partnership with us can accomplish, it will ignite that passion in you too. When you see His truth prompting ministries to AIDS victims and orphans, influencing leaders in government and education, or reaching millions in "closed" countries, it's easy to start seeing doors of opportunity everywhere and to dream big. Taking a walk can change the world. Find out how at www.walkthru.org.

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