



8. RUTH: CROSS-CULTURAL CHOICE



How can we choose the right decision?
 What made Ruth to choose Naomi and her God?
 What are the consequences of our choice?

Acknowledgement of Country

This land is God's land and God's Spirit dwells here. We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation, traditional custodians of this land under God. We commit ourselves again to working for reconciliation in this land.

Review (5 min)

Movie "Shrek"

- Rejection, Fear

Moses' cross-cultural Life (Exodus 1:8-22)

- Moses' life in three stages, Fear

Sharing Time (10 min)

- Share with your group about your own experiences of making decisions to choose one way or the other.

- Identify the reason why you made that decision.

Discussion with "The Matrix" (10 Min)

Virtual reality in more than just a game - it's a way to imprison you. Thomas Anderson (Keanu Reeves) is a computer whiz working for a software company and a hacker on the side. In the year 2070 Thomas meets Morpheus (Laurence Fishburne) and learns that the life he knows isn't real. Morpheus reveals the secret of the Matrix - an imaginary world based on 20th century Earth where human's minds live while their bodies are used as batteries by a sinister artificial intelligence system. Thomas must decide whether or not to accept the truth and all that comes with it. Will Thomas choose the deadened comfort of his old life or an abundant new life?

Background: Thomas (Neo) vs Cypher

- Do you have an experience like Neo choosing blue or red pill?
- How did you feel? What made you to choose the one not others?

Cultural Groups

- Identify different groups in the story.
- Does the truth really matter?

Conflicts and Relationships

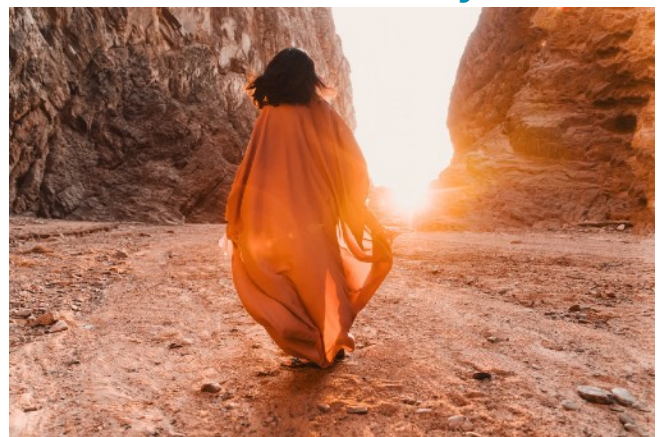
- What if all you believe is just an illusion?

- What if you like the illusion more?

Cross-Cultural Approach

- Would you choose to cross over to the truth no matter what the cost might be?
- What are the things that hold you back?

Discussion with Bible Story



Ruth 1:1-18

1 In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. 2 The man's name was Elimelech, his wife's name Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to Moab and lived there. 3 Now Elimelech, 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. 6 When she heard in Moab that the LORD had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them, Naomi and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there. 7 With her two daughters-in-law she left the place where she had been living and set out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah. 8 Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back, each of you, to your mother's home. May the LORD show kindness to you, as you have shown to your dead and to me. 9 May the LORD grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband."

Then she kissed them and they wept aloud 10 and said to her, “We will go back with you to your people.” 11 But Naomi said, “Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands? 12 Return home, my daughters; I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me — even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons — 13 would you wait until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them? No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me than for you, because the LORD’s hand has gone out against me!” 14 At this they wept again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye, but Ruth clung to her. 15 “Look,” said Naomi, “your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her.” 16 But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. 17 Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me.” 18 When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.(NIV)

Ruth's Cross-cultural Choice(30 min)
Questions for Group Discussion

Background: Ruth vs Orpah

- Read the Bible readings from Ruth 1
- What words or verses touched your heart?

Cultural Groups

- Identify different cultural groups religiously and socially.
- What made Orpah to go back to her home?

Conflicts and Relationships

- Why Naomi encouraged them to go back to their mothers’ gods?
- What were the risks following Naomi and God?

Cross-Cultural Approach

- What can we learn from Ruth’s decision?
- What are the risks for us to follow Jesus and cross over to the promised land?

Question Time (15 Min)

Next Study: Tue. 4th July, 1pm or 7:30pm(Hybrid)
 Study 9. Esther’s Cross-cultural Courage (Esther 4:5-17)
 With Video clip from “Remember the titans”

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