

# HALFWAY THERE

## SHARE

Has someone given you encouragement lately? What did they do or say to encourage you?

## SEEK

### Others Are There

Remember as we said before: because we live in a “fallen” world, that is, a world with sin, things will always have a sort of incompleteness to them. Things will never be brought to absolute perfection (what a gloomy thought!) until Jesus returns and restores all things.

From one angle it is indeed a gloomy thought, but as we’ve seen in the previous segment we have God on our side. As God made generation-long promises to Abram (Genesis 15), we see that He is never absent from being completely involved in this world. As the prophet Isaiah predicted and the Gospel of Matthew confirmed, He is truly “Immanuel,” meaning, “God is with us.”

From one final angle, we see that not only is God with us, but others are with us, too. Let’s clarify: God is with us, *and* He is with us in and through other people. We see this clearly in the book of Ruth where she and her mother-in-law, Naomi, are looking for a way to survive (now that they are without husbands). In a beautiful promise at the start of the story, Ruth declares allegiance to Naomi wherever she goes, so the two have each other “through thick and thin.”

But we also see a shocking fulfillment *from* God *through* others in the lineage that completes the book. There we see that Boaz came from the lineage of the widow Tamar, a woman who lost two husbands; yet, through the unique work of God, she has twins whose lineage leads to Boaz many generations down the road. Boaz, also by the unique work of God, finds himself with the widow, Ruth, bringing them together in marriage. Even more, their offspring would lead to the birth of King David, the prophesied leader of Israel and foreshadowing of the coming Messiah, Jesus!

Overall, what we see is God’s hand over every moment of every generation, weaving His promises throughout all of history. And how does He do it? Through human beings like you and me. We are indeed there to support one another in this life, because that is how God wants it!

# SEE

OTHERS ARE THERE

IT MIGHT SEEM LIKE A GLOOMY THOUGHT TO KNOW THAT, BECAUSE OF SIN, NOTHING IN THIS LIFE WILL BE PERFECT. BUT HOW MIGHT THE THEOLOGICAL NOTION OF ORIGINAL SIN HELP US WHEN WE SEE BAD THINGS HAPPENING AROUND US?

TAKE A LOOK AT GENESIS 15. IN WHAT WAYS DO YOU SEE THAT GOD IS WITH ABRAM? IN WHAT WAYS DO YOU SEE THAT GOD IS WITH EVERY GENERATION?

IN THE LINEAGE AT THE END OF THE BOOK OF RUTH, WE SEE GOD ORCHESTRATING MANY GENERATIONS TO BRING TOGETHER BOAZ AND RUTH. THEIR OFFSPRING LEADS TO KING DAVID, AND KING DAVID'S OFFSPRING LEADS TO OUR KING, JESUS! DO YOU TRUST THAT GOD IS IN ABSOLUTE CONTROL OVER ALL THINGS IN THIS WORLD? DOES THIS COMFORT YOU? HOW SO? CHALLENGE YOU? PLEASE EXPLAIN!

NOT ONLY DO WE SEE THAT GOD IS WITH US AS WE PERSEVERE IN THE FAITH, BUT HE ALSO PLACES OTHERS IN OUR LIFE TO HELP US ALONG THE WAY. AS YOU REFLECT ON THIS, CAN YOU NAME SOMEONE WHOM GOD HAS PLACED IN YOUR LIFE TO HELP YOU ALONG THE WAY? HOW HAVE THEY HELPED YOU IN YOUR FAITH? CAN YOU SEE HOW YOU'VE BEEN PLACED IN SOMEONE ELSE'S LIFE TO HELP THEM ALONG THE WAY? PLEASE EXPLAIN!

Please take a few moments to pray with and for one another