

Discussion Guide Part 5
May 13, 2018
There Are No Accidents



1. Read Ruth 2:1-5

2. The [Tanakh](#), the English translation of the Hebrew Bible translates verse 3 this way: *“and off she went. She came and gleaned in a field, behind the reapers; and, **as luck would have it**, it was the piece of land belonging to Boaz, who was of Elimelech’s family.”* Describe the last incident where you or someone else attributed something to luck. _____

3. Dr. Block, an esteemed commentator writes that this is “one of the most significant interpretive comments in the book . . . this must be recognized as one of the key statements in the book.”¹ I think God is using irony in a powerful way. Can you think of other uses of irony in the Scriptures to make a powerful point? Why is irony so powerful? _____

(Job 16:2-3; 1 Cor 4:7-14, for example)

4. God is teaching us not to rely on fatalism, chance, coincidence, or even at times, rational explanations to events that occur. We are to take notice of the unseen hand of God. Where have you seen God’s hand, albeit not obvious to others, recently occur in your life?

¹ Block, D. I. (1999). [Judges, Ruth](#) (Vol. 6, p. 653). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

5. Evolutionary concepts are based upon the reality that 'Time + Chance' = Creative Development. How does this deny the biblical doctrine of God's sovereignty?²

6. This story gives us a unique glimpse into God's work in our lives. Everyone of faith would affirm that God was directing Ruth's steps. Jim said, "This is not a story of dreams and visions. This is not a story of esoteric feelings and funny vibes. This is not a story of foolish fleeces and handwriting on the walls." It is a story of God placing His desires in Ruth's heart (Psalm 37:4) and God directing her steps (Psalm 37:23). Does this leadership of the Lord encourage you? Why or why not? _____

7. Many people are familiar with the poem: [Footprints](#). The ending stanza reads: "The Lord replied, 'The years when you have seen only one set of footprints, my child, is when I carried you.'" Can you testify to times in your life that you knew that in secret and silent ways God was leading and perhaps carrying you? _____

2 Sovereignty means that God, as the ruler of the Universe, is free and has the right to do whatever he wants. He is not bound or limited by the dictates of his created beings. Further, he is in complete control over everything that happens here on Earth. God's will is the final cause of all things.