

UNLIKELY HEROES

EXTRAORDINARY PLANS
FOR ORDINARY PEOPLE



RUTHLESSLY BREAKING BONDS.

Ruth, a Moabite, had some serious family history to work through. Moabites were descended from incest and deception, and were generally known as prideful and arrogant. If we're talking nature over nurture, Ruth didn't have much hope.

Family history is a tough subject.

Did you know that children of addicts are eight times more likely to develop an addiction?

Did you know studies have shown that children of divorced parents have a significantly higher divorce rate in marriages than children of non-divorced parents?

It can seem like a hopeless cycle on paper.

But God is a chain breaker and a freedom bringer. He chose to use Ruth. He freed her from the shame that followed her as a Moabite, even allowing her to be a part of the lineage of King David and Jesus Himself.

And He wants to use *you*. You are not bound to repeat the brokenness of your family. God is a God of freedom, restoration, and new life!

IN THE BIBLE.

John 8:34-36

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Romans 8:14-15

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."

2 Corinthians 5:14-18a

Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life. He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them.

So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ.

QUESTIONS.

1. What are some good and bad tendencies, habits, etc. that are specific to your family?
2. How can you begin to break the unhealthy cycles?
3. What speaks to you in the 2 Corinthians passage?

Whenever you read the Bible, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What does this tell you about God?
2. What does this tell you about yourself and the world?
3. How is this going to change who you are and how you live?