Faith: Trusting, Walking, Living

A Study in Ruth & Galatians
Ruth 1:1–21 (Part B)

Read Ruth 1:1-21.

1.	Naomi is returning to the Promised Land and her hometown of Bethlehem. What do you think she anticipates her life will be like when she gets home, both positive and negative? (vv. 6, 11–12)
2.	What we believe about God is vitally important in how we make sense of our lives. a. What do you observe about Naomi's relationship with the God of Israel? In verses 1–9
	In verse 13b
	b. Do you agree with Naomi's interpretation of her circumstances (v. 13b)? Why or why not?
3.	At least 10 years after leaving for Moab, Naomi returns to Bethlehem. a. Why do you think the women of the town ask, "Can this be Naomi?" (v. 19)? (** Job 2:11–13)
	b. "Naomi" means "pleasant" or "lovely." Why does she want to be called by a different name? (vv. 20–21)

^{*}The $\hfill \Box$ symbol indicates verses for further study.

4.	When Naomi states, "I went away full, but the LORD has brought me back empty" (v. 21), what is she overlooking? (vv. 16–17)
5.	Like Naomi, we often don't see the bigger picture of what God is doing. Think of a time of loss or suffering in your own life. a. What was your initial response and how did you view God?
	b. Did your response and view of God change with time? If so, how?
6.	More than anything Naomi needs to believe that the God who controls the circumstances of her life loves her and is committed to working all things out for her good. This is true for us as well. a. What promises or truths do you cling to when your world has been turned upside down, you feel insecure or you are stripped of all you hope in?
	 b. If you can't think of any on your own, look at the selection of verses below. Choose one and explain how it could help you in difficult times. Jer. 29:11–13; Lam. 3:21–26; Hab. 3:17–19; Rom. 8:28–39; 2 Cor. 4:16–18; Heb. 4:15–16; 12:2–3; 1 Pet. 1:3–7