

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

Finding Hope in Lost Dreams

Ruth 1-4

May 12, 2024

Pastor Jeff Griffin

Review: Mother's Day often causes pain to many who have experienced family related losses and disappointments. We learned how to handle disappointment in a constructive way by studying Naomi from the book of Ruth.

Kicking it off: Where was your mother born and raised?

Discussion:

1. Reread Ruth 1:1 (NIV) *There was a famine in the land, so the family went to live for a while in the country of Moab.*

What challenges would likely have been encountered in this move? What is the biggest move that your family has experienced?

2. After Naomi lost her husband and two sons, she returned to her hometown and told her old friends of a desired name change. Reread Ruth 1:21 (NIV) *"Don't call me Naomi," she told them. "Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter."*

Why did Naomi want people to know that she was bitter?

3. Reread what Naomi said in Ruth 1:22 (NIV) *"I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty."*

Naomi did not give God credit for making her "full." She did give God credit for making her "empty." According to the bible, who is responsible for the hardship in our lives? Who is responsible for the good in our lives?

4. Reread what Ruth told Naomi in Ruth 1:16-17 (NIV) *"Don't urge me to leave 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. Where you die I will die. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me."*

What inspires you about this speech?

5. Naomi was shocked to discover that Ruth bumped into the wealthy family member named Boaz. Reread what Naomi declared in Ruth 2:20 (MSG) *"God hasn't walked out on us after all! He still loves us, in bad times as well as good!"*

How would you use this verse to help someone doubting God's love because of life disappointments?

6. Ruth married Boaz and gave birth to a son. Reread Ruth 4:14-15 (NIV) *The women said to Naomi: "Praise be to the Lord! For your daughter-in-law, who loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has given birth!"*

Each of us have disappointments and blessings in our lives. What does this verse teach us about what we should focus on?

Wrapping It Up: Pray that God would help us respond to life disappointments by turning to Him instead of away.