

2024



NAOMI

ALLOW ME TO REINTRODUCE MYSELF:

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

We are dealing with how God brings us into a newness of life and look at Naomi. We talk about Ruth, but you cannot become a Ruth without a Naomi. God assigns us to people at varying seasons of our life. The story of Naomi shows how Ruth stood faithful to her assignment to Naomi when Naomi was ready to give up. Both women had a role to play in their relationship. Naomi started out as the pourer. When life hit, she became the one who needed to be poured into. Ruth's faithfulness and commitment allowed her to not only pour into Naomi, but also allowed her to bless her in the form of restoration.

Naomi: "Pleasant, Delightful, Lovely."

THE FAMILY

Ruth 1:2 NIV - The man's name was **Elimelek**, his wife's name was **Naomi**, and the names of his two sons were **Mahlon** and **Kilion**. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. And **they** went to **Moab** and lived there.

- God's plan for creation was for men and women to marry and have children
- At any time, the family dynamics can shift and change
- The cause of their family shift was to create a better life for them

What does your family unit look like? What changes have you made to make things better in your family unit?

4 OF THEM

Elimelek - husband

Naomi - wife

Mahlon - son

Kilion - son

LOSS OF ONE

Ruth 1:3a NIV - Now **Elimelek**, Naomi's husband, died,

- Sometimes life gives you an unexpected turn but you don't get a license to check out
- You cannot sit in grief
- Learn how to cry but keep on living
- You are needed by those that are still connected to you
- This not what you planned or prayed for

Which loss in your life was the hardest? Why?

3 OF THEM

Naomi - mother/widow

Mahlon - son

Kilion - son

ADDITION OF TWO

Ruth 1:4a NIV - They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth.

- Be open to receive the increase that the Lord has for you
- Do not discredit when God sends someone to be a part of your family, they're on assignment
- Be a good example to them
- Every decision affects your family
- Life has a way of handing you a card you didn't expect

Who has the Lord assigned to your family? How have you received them? What have you taught them?

5 OF THEM

Naomi - mother

Mahlon - son

Kilion - son

Orpah - wife

Ruth - wife

LOSS OF TWO

Ruth 1:4b-5 NIV- [4b] After they had lived there about ten years, [5] both Mahlon and Kilion also died.

- When life hits you and takes something from you, it leaves something with you as well
- You can focus on what you loss or what remains
- God will restore what remains
- No matter what happens you have a reason to live

Who are you living for? What motivates you to keep living?

3 OF THEM

Naomi - widow

Orpah - widow

Ruth - widow

NAOMI WANTS OUT

Ruth 1:8a NIV - Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go back,”

Ruth 1:11a NIV - “Return home, my daughters.

Ruth 1:12a NIV - Return home,

Ruth 1:15b NIV - Go back with her.”

- You can't control how loss happens
- Handling grief and disappointment at the same time is difficult
- Don't let bitterness be your story
- Evaluate the present space you are in
- Don't let the situation handle you

How do you handle loss? What posture do you take spiritually, emotionally, and physically?

SHE WANTS TO BE “JUST 1” HOW SHE FEELS

Ruth 1:19b-21 NIV - [19b] “Can this be Naomi?” [20] “Don't call me Naomi,” she told them. “Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter. [21] I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi? The Lord has afflicted me; the Almighty has brought misfortune upon me.”

- Life has a way of trying to change your personality
- Sometimes we allow the things we have been through to change us
- Be careful not to blame God for everything
- Just because God allowed it to happen doesn't mean He is the cause of it
- Don't allow your misfortune to change your relationship with God and rob you of your future
- You must mourn and keep on living because greater is ahead of you
- God can handle your emotions
- Instead of renaming herself, she should have renamed the situation
- Your situation is not for a lifetime
- Don't settle for disappointment

Do you want to live the rest of your life disgruntled? What are you doing to move forward from life's disappointment?

NAOMI means: “Pleasant, Delightful, Lovely”

MARA means: “BITTER”

- Instead of renaming herself, she should have renamed the situation
- Don't let the situation change you

- God gave you power to call the situation what you want
- Life is trying to take your faith while God is giving you opportunities to use your faith
- Since it happened “look to the hills from which cometh my help” (See Psalms 121:1)
- Faith calls those things that be not as they were (see Romans 4:17)
- Life gives you an opportunity to exercise your faith
- You are about to be filled in every way

What are you calling your situation? How does that name line up with your faith and what God calls you? If not, what should you rename the situation?

MARA!!!

EMPTY

AFFLICTED

UPSET

ALONE

MAD

ABANDONED

BITTER

DISAPPOINTED

FORGOTTEN

CONFUSED

DISCOURAGED

CURSED

- The more you say it the more you become it
- The power of life and death is in your tongue, when you say things that are not in alignment with the will of God, you give life to it
- This is an opportunity to live out your faith
- Cast your cares upon God because He cares for you (1 Peter 5:7)
- God isn't going to leave you like this
- Sometimes suffering produces the oil in your life

What emotions did you have to give to God? How did things change for you when you trusted God with your emotions? How did He turn things around?

*1 Peter 5:10 NIV - And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, **after you have suffered** a little while, **will himself restore you** and **make you strong, firm and steadfast.***

- God himself will restore you
- When God restores you He puts you back like you never lost and replenish what you have left
- You have to keep living because there is something more on the other side of this
- God knows what you need when you need it
- You will not go back the way you came
- You will not go back empty, mad or bitter
- Your posture should be thanking God for the restoration
- Your suffering days are over

*What does this scripture teach us about restoration? How does this encourage you?
How do you get restored and become strong and steadfast?*

HOW TO BE REINTRODUCED

RUTH ASSIGNED TO NAOMI

Ruth 1:16-18 NIV - [16] But Ruth replied, “Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from 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. [17] Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.” [18] When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.

- It's one thing to be with someone because you need them, it's another to stick it out when they need you
- We need some relationships that aren't fair weather
- We need more assigned relationships, than attached relationships
- You have to accept the person God assigned to you
- When God sends you a person, they don't move or leave
- Covenant is powerful
- Stop pushing people away

*How do you know who the Lord assigned to you? How did you receive the person?
Who are you assigned to? What did God teach you about yourself with this assignment?*

RUTH SERVED NAOMI

*Ruth 2:18 NIV - She **carried it back to town**, and her mother-in-law saw how much she had gathered. Ruth **also brought out and gave her what she had left over after she had eaten enough**.*

- Stay connected to the assignment when its not popular
- God is making sure we will never run out
- God is about to send someone in your life to make sure you don't run out
- Sometimes you have nothing to give, so you must learn how to receive
- God is sending someone to fill you up
- They will pour until you have more
- You need someone who's cup is overflowing in your life

Who has poured into your life in the past? How has it affected you?

*Ruth 2:23a NIV - And **she lived with her mother-in-law**.*

- When you decide to help someone else, God will give you more

- Position yourself to be a bucket, not a cup
- Your pouring will replenish you

Who are you currently pouring into? What effect does that have on you?

NAOMI SERVED RUTH

*Ruth 3:1 NIV - One day Ruth's mother-in-law Naomi said to her, “My daughter, **I must find a home for you.** where **you will be well provided for.***

- The older women are to teach the younger women (see Titus 2:3-5)
- The older women can teach you how to go further faster, they move with their mind not their body
- Make sure your mentor is not in competition with you
- Learn from someone who had what you want, but doesn't want what you have
- Look like where you're going; appearance matters
- You don't have to choose, just let them know you can be chosen

Recall a time in your life whereas an older person imparted wisdom into you and you rejected it. Why did you reject it? What happened as a result?

RUTH & BOAZ SERVED NAOMI

*Ruth 4:13 NIV - So **Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife.** When he made love to her, **the Lord enabled her to conceive,** and she gave birth to a son.*

- Wisdom will work if you let it
- God is about to bless your behavior
- You are about to give birth to something that will give birth to something
- God will bless your obedience
- Don't walk away from your blessing

What command from God are you remaining in obedience to by faith?

*Ruth 4:17 NIV -] **The women living there said, “Naomi has a son!” And they named him Obed.** He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.*

Obed means “service,” and so this suffering saint finds herself with a **new service,** a **promise** and a **new meaning to life**

- People live when they have purpose and are needed
- Your little role is not insignificant, it's changing generations
- You have to go back to your place of origin

What promise has God given you, but it hasn't manifested yet? How will it affect your future and family?

Ruth 4:14-15a NIV-[14] *The women said to Naomi: “**Praise be to the Lord**, who this day has not left you without a guardian-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel! [15a] He will **renew your life** and **sustain you** in your old age.*

- God will renew your life and restore your lost years
- There is more in you and you have a future and a hope
- There is purpose over pain
- He is not finished with you yet

Do you know your purpose in life and how it will be used to bring Glory to God?

Ruth 4:16 NIV - Then **Naomi took the child in her arms and cared for him.**

- Scripture states they thought the baby was Naomi’s
- God will send people that only speak life and remind you who you are
- God gives it back like you never lost it
- God is about to give you a sweatless victory, a promise after the pain

Do you believe that life’s challenges are not wasted, but can be filled with blessings and restoration? How have you been blessed?

Jeremiah 29:11NIV - “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, **to give you a future and a hope.**”

- What you lost cannot be compared to what’s coming
- Your life will be renewed
- God can take what is considered trash and bless it

What is God’s plan for your life? How are you walking in that plan?

DECLARATION

I am restored, confirmed, strengthened and established in God.

PRAYER

Father God, I thank You for allowing me to glean from those who are older, wiser and more experienced than I. Thank You for every opportunity that You have given me to serve someone else. I will not push away those You have assigned to me. When losses come into my life, I will be reminded that it is only a season and there is so much more in me. Thank You for restoring me from past hurts and losses. Thank You for keeping, covering, protecting, and loving me through it all. Because of Your sufficient grace, I am stronger and wiser. I will always trust and honor You in Jesus’ name, Amen!