

Response Questions  
February 13, 2022 | Ruth 1

1. Describe a time in your life when things didn't go as you hoped.
2. When Naomi's husband and both her sons died, what choices did she have to consider physically, culturally, and emotionally? (vs. 1-18)
3. In Ruth 1:16-17, Ruth makes a bold statement about following Naomi. What are some key elements of her commitment? What was she giving up? What does this say about Ruth's character?
4. As we read verses 11-13, 20, and 21 we tend to see a self-centred, 'blind-to-God' Naomi, who can only see her bitterness, but how do we see her demonstrate her care for her daughters-in-law? Where do we see her faith?
5. As Naomi explains her situation to her daughters-in-law, she says that "it is more bitter for me than for you, because the LORD's hand has turned against me." Is Naomi bitter at God or bitter about her situation? Does this matter?
6. Have you ever been bitter at God or your situation? Is it okay to be real with God in the midst of bitter and difficult situations? Is being transparent and honest with God something that is easy or difficult for you?
7. What are some biblical examples of tragedy building perseverance in God's people? What do you recall from last week's study in Romans five that parallels this idea?
8. Can you think of ways when your bitter experiences have been formative for you?
9. How can you be confident that God is at work even when you don't see it? What Scripture do you know that confirms that God is at work even when you don't see it?
10. What are you going through right now, where these passages directly apply? How can your community group be in prayer for you about this?