

My Name Is _____

January 13 & 14, 2024

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CHECK-IN:

ICEBREAKER DISCUSSION:

- Share a label or name you have identified with during challenging times in your life. How did that label influence your perspective?
- Have you ever experienced a season where life felt bitter or challenging, similar to Naomi's experience? How did you navigate through it?

READ: Ruth 1:20-21

Reflect on Naomi's decision to change her name from "Naomi" (Pleasant) to "Mara" (Bitter). How did bitterness impact her perspective on life?

- Defined by our circumstances
- Our attitude impacts our perspective, thereby, producing the right language.

In times of hardship, do you find yourself tempted to change your identity or perspective? How do you handle such situations?

- Distinguishing between "life situations" and "seasonal situations"... making decisions in temporary situations vs permanent situations.

READ: Ruth 4:13-17

Look at the rest of Naomi's story and the positive outcome. How does this demonstrate the importance of growing in perspective?

Discuss instances in your life where you couldn't see the bigger picture initially but later realized God's plan.

DISCUSS:

Pastor John addressed the question: What do we do when life doesn't make an easy road to walk?

With the following statements:

1. Be real about the discouragement, disappointment, or pain.

Share a personal experience when you had to be real about discouragement or pain. How did you navigate through it?

2. Look for stories to encourage you in your faith.

Discuss stories or examples that encourage your faith during difficult times. How do these stories inspire resilience?

3. Refrain from running to things that will destroy your life.

Reflect on the tendency to run to destructive habits during challenging times. How can one refrain from these destructive behaviors?

4. Surround yourself with people who will challenge you to get better rather than bitter.

Share experiences of being surrounded by people who either helped you grow better or led you toward bitterness. How important is the influence of those around you?

5. Learn to grow in perspective.

Explore the concept of growing in perspective. How can a broader perspective help in trusting God's plan during challenging seasons?

PRAY:

Close the session with prayer, allowing group members to share their prayer requests and lifting each other up in prayer. Encourage the use of the provided prayer link for additional requests.

<https://hopefellowship.net/prayer-request/>