

Nov 1 | Sunday
Journey through the Valley of the Shadow
Psalm 23:4



02 | Mon – Overwhelming loss | Read Ruth 1:1-5

Severe famine sent Naomi and her family to a foreign land. Her husband and two sons died, leaving Naomi and two daughters-in-law alone. Not only was there deep grief but in a male dominated society, women only had rights when they were married. They hit rock bottom. Was there ever a time when you felt like you hit rock bottom? How did that experience affect your trust in God?

03 | Tue – Amazing commitment | Read Ruth 1:6-18

After the famine was over, Naomi decided to return home. She released her daughters-in-law to go back to their families to find new husbands. She convinced Orpha but Ruth insisted that she would go with Naomi. Because of her love and loyalty, Ruth chose to leave behind a familiar life to step into an unknown future. Has God ever led you in this way? What - or who - gave you the courage to move forward?

04 | Wed – After bitterness, hopeful possibilities | Read Ruth 1:19-2:33; Deut. 24:17-22

Naomi's losses left her vulnerable both physically and spiritually. Yet Boaz's kindness to Ruth revived hope in both women that God was still working on their behalf. When you have experienced great loss, was there someone whose concern and kindness gave you hope? Look around. Maybe God will use you today to give hope to someone else in need.

05 | Thu – Carefully planned activity | Read Ruth 3:1-18

Naomi and Ruth knew they needed God to provide for their future. While trusting Him, they did not passively wait for things to change. They actively pursued Boaz's favor. As God's plan unfolded, Ruth and Naomi's actions opened the door for Him to work on their behalf. There are times when we need to wait and trust God but other times He wants us to be proactive and accountable. Do you trust Him to show you what to do and when?

06 | Fri – Hope becomes reality | Read Ruth 4:1-12

Who could have foreseen, when Naomi returned home to Bethlehem a broken woman, that she and Ruth would ever be more than two poverty stricken widows? Who could have guessed that someday they would become part of a prosperous family, loved and cared for by a wealthy, honorable man? When hope becomes reality, God not only provides for us but sometimes He blesses us beyond our expectations.

07 | Sat – Naomi, Ruth, David...and Jesus | Read Ruth 13:22; Matthew 1:5-6

Boaz and Ruth married and had a son, Obed. Most people probably thought this was a "happy ending" but there is more. Obed had a grandson named David who became king and through that family line, Jesus was born. Are there moments in your life in which, looking back, you can see that God was up to more than you could understand at the time? Does this give you hope for the present difficulty you might be facing?

November 8 | Sun – King David's Story of Sin and Redemption | Read 2 Sam. 11:1-3

