

WALKING IN FAITH

Ruth 1

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- Have you ever felt disappointed with God or felt like God abandoned you or that he wasn't listening? What were your life circumstances at the time?
- Have you ever needed to choose between the logical, sensible thing to do, and what felt like the right thing to do? What did you choose and what influenced your decision?

As the book of Ruth opens, Ruth and Naomi appear to have hit rock bottom. Despite their best efforts, their circumstances are dire with no promise of improving. Yet their story of struggle exhibits uncanny courage, loyalty, and faithfulness. Their example encourages us to hang onto faith even when the world would tell us to give up. Deeper study of the narrative also affirms the comforting truth that expressing our frustrations and disappointments is not at odds with our faith. In the story of Ruth and Naomi, we witness a small reflection of God's great faithfulness to his people.

Listen: [Walking in Faith](#)

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- When have you experienced bitterness in your life or observed it in the life of someone close to you? How did it affect your faith? Have you observed a difference between how people of faith and people without faith endure bitter times?
- In segment 2, hosts Dave Bast and Scott Hoezee discussed how Ruth's faithfulness mirrors God's big faithfulness. Spend some time reflecting on the Bible; can you identify other Bible stories that display God's faithfulness to his people? Can you think of a time when God stuck with you when you didn't deserve it?
- Does knowing that we don't always have to be cheerful and that God can handle our anger and bitterness change how you see him? What does it teach you about his character?
- In segment 3, Scott talks about the similarities between Naomi's complaint and the psalms of lament. Read Psalm 22, a famous psalm of lament, and compare it to Naomi's complaint in Ruth 1:20-21. What parallels do you see?

Related Passages

- **Hebrews 11**
- **1 Thessalonians 5:23-24**

- **Lamentations 3:22-23**
- **Psalm 22**
- **Psalm 142**

Conclusion

Do you have any complaints about your life right now? Share them with God by writing them down. Use Naomi's complaint and Psalm 22 as a model. Close your lament by remembering God's faithfulness in detail and committing to walk with him in faith.

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