

10.29.23

Time To Come Home

Ruth 2:1-23



1. Read Ruth 1:19-22. Naomi had been away from home (Bethlehem) for at least 10 years and had lost her husband and both sons. She was now returning home. Naomi's name means "pleasant," but she is broken and now wants to be called "Mara," which means "bitter" (20). So, 10 years away have not made Naomi better; they have made her bitter. The trials of life often make a person bitter and often bitter toward God. Look up the following Scriptures and record what God's Word has to say:

- 1 Thessalonians 5:18
- Ephesians 4:31, 32
- Colossians 3:12-17

Why is responding the way God wants us to respond so difficult when we have been hurt or broken? Record a time when bitterness got the best of you or a time when you were able to get victory over bitterness and how God played into your situation:

2. Read Ruth chapter 2 in one setting:
 - Mark the references to "gleaning." Look up Leviticus 19:9-10 and 23:22 and write down what God's purposes were for these laws on gleaning:
 - When it comes to God, I like the phrase, "nothing just happens." Notice the "invisible hand of God" orchestrating the events that will ultimately bring joy to both Naomi and Ruth. Write down the "coincidences" that are recorded in Ruth 2 (Ex. - Ruth "happened" to come to part of the field belonging to Boaz. - Ruth 2:3):
 - Read Proverbs 16:1,9 and reflect on the fact that with God, "nothing just happens." Why is God's sovereign control in our lives such a blessing to the believer?

Connection Card Next Steps - Acts 3:19-20

***I confess/repent** that I have walked away from Christ, and I want to come home to Christ and experience times of refreshing that come from the Lord.

***I will reflect** on my life and write down how God has always been in control no matter what decisions I have made and that with God "nothing just happens."