



- 3) How often does a Christian need to choose to follow Jesus? *Luke 9:23*
- 4) What was Ruth willing to do and give up in order to follow Naomi?
- 5) What are we called to “put off” when we make the decision to follow Jesus according to Ephesians 4:17-32?

**CHALLENGE:** Find other passages in scripture that explain how you, as a “new creation in Christ” should be different from the “old man” you once were.

- 6) Are there things in your life right now that the Holy Spirit is asking you to put aside in order to deepen your relationship with Christ?

Spend some time before the Lord, asking Him to reveal these areas to you and for the grace to willingly lay those things down at the foot of the cross.



DAY #3 Read verses 19-21

- 1) According to verse 19, what happened as soon as they arrived at the gate of Bethlehem?

So often when we return to the Lord after a state of backsliding, we, or perhaps I should say I... would just as soon sneak in the back door in hopes that no one would notice. I would prefer to not have to give an account to anyone – just let me get on with things as though nothing had ever happened. Wouldn't that be nice? I wonder if Naomi was hoping for the same thing... Well, that's neither here nor there because according to verse 19 God had other plans. God's timing of Naomi and Ruth's return was by no means chance. There is no being "sneaky" when it comes to God. He has a way of holding us accountable – and more often than not He uses our church family to do it. The women that God had placed in Naomi's life were there to greet her when she returned and there was no covering up the fact that there was a change in Naomi.

- 2) What was Naomi's response to these women according to verse 20?

Look up Mara H4755

- 3) According to verse 21, why was she "bitter"?

Look up full H4390

Look up empty H7387

- 4) Would you consider yourself "full", "empty" or somewhere in between right now, spiritually speaking?
- 5) Prayerfully consider why your spiritual levels are where you believe them to be.

**Ephesians 3:14-21**

- 4) Who went out? Who brought her back?

- 5) Has there ever been a time in your life when you left the Lord “full” and He brought you back “empty”?
  
- 6) Read Luke 15:11-24. How does this story compare/relate to what happened with Naomi?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 7) What is Naomi’s attitude toward God according to verse 21?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 8) What is your attitude when God disciplines you?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 8) What is our attitude suppose to be when God is disciplining or refining us?

Proverbs 3:11-12

Hebrews 12:7-11

Job 5:17

I Praise my Lord and rejoice that he loves me enough to strip me bare, bring me back and build me up all over again regardless as to how far from Him I have wandered!

***“...He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ,” Philippians 1:6***



Ruth is standing on the threshold of her new life at the end of chapter 1. Just as we receive gifts when we are “grafted in” and filled with the Spirit upon receiving Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior of our lives, Ruth is going to be receiving gifts as well. In fact we will find out over the next few weeks that her blessings will be so abundant that they will be running over and touching the lives of others.

**Day 5** - Spend your time before the Lord in the book of Galatians 5. Think back to when you were a brand new believer, what your life was like then and what it is like now. You should be able to see growth in the area of spiritual fruit. Jot down your thoughts and end with a prayer.

May God richly bless you as you seek His face daily in His word.