

pause

learning to wait on God

Naomi & Ruth

A farmer and two widows sounds like the beginning of a joke, but it is the setup to one of the great gospel stories. The book of Ruth tells the tragic story of “a female Job” named Naomi. Tragedy after tragedy force her to ask questions about God’s goodness and her own usefulness. But this is not a tragedy, it is a God filled story that will help you find meaning as you pause to wait on God.

1. Have there been times in the past when your life was on “pause?” If so, what did you do to get through that time and is it worth doing now?
2. There is probably someone who has been a ‘guardian-redeemer’ to you like Boaz was to Ruth. If possible, let them know how much that act of kindness meant to you and what you have done with it.
3. The story about John O’Leary and Jack Buck reminds us of how little things can make a big difference. Is there a way you can “show up, day by day” and make a lasting change in someone’s life?
4. As God’s children, we have experienced God’s “hesed” or mercy, yet it is not to be terminal with us. What can I do today to be a ‘conduit’ of God’s mercy?
5. Even though God is rarely mentioned in the story of Naomi and Ruth you can see his fingerprints all over the story. If you were to dust your life for God’s fingerprints, what would you discover?
6. Ruth stands beside Naomi in commitment to Naomi and to Naomi’s God. Her faithfulness reassures Naomi of God’s *hesed*. How does Jesus reassure you of God’s love even when life is full of trouble?