Ruth Part 1: Towards God.

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"gods" will let _____ _____…. But the LORD God is the _____one.

Moving away from God _____ saves us.

Ruth 1:1-15
Jeremiah 2:13.

Turning back to God is the _____ of hope.

Ruth 1:6-18

God _____ the bitter and the broken.

Ruth 1:19-22.

Lay down your gods, cling to the LORD your God!

Prodigal son. Luke 15:11-32.

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Small Group Questions

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Ruth 1.

Q1. When life gets difficult, what is your natural instinct: fight harder, withdraw, distract yourself, seek help, pray, or something else?

Read Ruth 1:1-5.

Q2. It is easy to criticize Elimelech for leaving the land of Israel, indeed, Jewish Rabbis do in their teachings. If indeed this was a case of a man taking things into his own hands instead of trusting God, which of the following is more accurate for you?

a. I find myself condemning him
b. I can identify with him

Read Ruth 1:6-7.

Q3. What stands out to you in this passage?

Q4. Why did Naomi decide to return to Israel?

Read Ruth 1:8-18.

Q5. Discuss what stands out to you about Ruth's determination.

Q6. Take note of verses 13, 21 and 22. **Has there been a time in your life when you felt that God had been harsh with you or forsaken you?**

Read Ruth 1:19-22.

Q7. Dan said, "It is when we come to the LORD, open, with honesty, and willing to let him have his way, that we find his grace and redemption." **What stops us in those moments from turning to God like this?** (read Acts 3:19)

Q8. Practically speaking, what would it look like for you to "turn back" to God this week?

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