Family Discipleship Resource
(Ruth 1:19-22)

G – Gather for Prayer

Father,

I praise you and thank you for your sovereignty and control over all things. Help me to remember that you are working things out for my good and your glory.

In Jesus' Name, Amen

R – Read the Text (Ruth 1:19-22)

19 So the two women went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they arrived in Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them, and the women exclaimed, "Can this be Naomi?"

20 "Don't call me Naomi," she told them. "Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter. 21 I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi? The Lord has afflicted me; the Almighty has brought misfortune upon me."

22 So Naomi returned from Moab accompanied by Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, arriving in Bethlehem as the barley harvest was beginning.

O – Observe what God has said

How would you describe the spiritual journey that Naomi is on in this passage?

Where do you see the hand of God on Naomi's life?

W – Work on Application

Journeys that we confront in life, not unlike what Naomi and Ruth experienced here, can throw us for a loop and cause a great deal of uncertainty, heartache, difficulty, and desperation. Often, we cannot see from our vantage point how things are going to work out and we can grow despairing and discouraged as a result. Experiences, circumstances, and scenarios seem to toss us too and fro with no rhyme or reason and we can become like Naomi here.

However, God's people can rest assured that what seems like confused chaos is NOT outside the scope of his sovereign rule. What looks like randomness and regression is actually moving his plan forward. What the world seeks to use for evil, God can use for his ultimate good. What looks like the very last place we'd expect to be, might just be exactly where the Lord wants us to take us further than we ever thought or imagined. This is what this journey to Bethlehem teaches and it is a message that all of the travelers who will walk through Bethlehem in the next couple of weeks need to be reminded of.

What does Roman 8:28 say? How should this comfort us today?

Can you think of an example of something that you went through that was difficult, but God used to move you forward in the right direction?

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Family Weekly Memory Verse: *"…So Naomi returned from Moab accompanied by Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, arriving in Bethlehem as the barley harvest was beginning."-Ruth 1:22*