

Questions for Discussion (Week of 26 July 2020)

1. Even though 10 years passes between the death of Elimelech and Naomi's sons, the text presents it as a series of blows. Why is it that we have the saying, "When it rains it pours?" What is it about difficulties that they feel like they come in waves?
2. Ruth's loyalty to Naomi seems like it's getting in the way of what's practical. Orpah did what the rational person would have thought was best. How have you experienced what's right to be in conflict with what the world says is smart?
3. How have we been influenced by our culture to view what we should expect of God? Does our sense of exceptionalism about our way of life lead us to draw incorrect conclusions about the Lord? Why or why not?
4. Since Ruth stands as a picture of God's love for His people, how have you seen the Church make who He is tangible? How have you seen God's love in others? Is it possible that since Ruth was Moabite, we might find divine kindness in places we don't expect it? Where might those places be?
5. How do we resist drawing conclusions from our various stories when the final chapters haven't been written? Naomi was sure chapter 1 would be the sum total of her existence but her story was far from over.