

Walking in Faith

When life's circumstances seem like more than we can bear, when we're completely worn down by life, and even when it feels like we've been abandoned by God, reading the opening chapter of Ruth's story plants seeds of encouragement to maintain faith in spite of our circumstances. Naomi's words also remind us that God can handle even our most negative and bitter emotions. By studying Ruth's faithfulness to Naomi we learn about God's character and see a reflection of God's faithfulness to his people.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- Have you ever felt disappointed with God or felt like God abandoned you or that he wasn't listening? What were your life circumstances at the time?
- Have you ever needed to choose between the logical, sensible thing to do, and what felt like the right thing to do? What did you choose and what influenced your decision?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [Walking in Faith](#)

READ [Ruth 1](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- When have you experienced bitterness in your life or observed it in the life of someone close to you? How did it affect your faith? Have you observed a difference between how people of faith and people without faith endure bitter times?
- In segment 2, hosts Dave Bast and Scott Hoezee discussed how Ruth's faithfulness mirrors God's big faithfulness. Spend some time reflecting on the Bible; can you identify other Bible stories that display God's faithfulness to his people? Can you think of a time when God stuck with you when you didn't deserve it?
- Does knowing that we don't always have to be cheerful and that God can handle our anger and bitterness change how you see him? What does it teach you about his character?
- In segment 3, Scott talks about the similarities between Naomi's complaint and the psalms of lament. Read [Psalm 22](#), a famous psalm of lament, and compare it to Naomi's complaint in [Ruth 1:20-21](#). What parallels do you see?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Hebrews 11](#), [1 Thessalonians 5:23-24](#), [Lamentations 3:22-23](#), [Psalm 22](#), [Psalm 142](#)

CONCLUSION

Do you have any complaints about your life right now? Share them with God by writing them down. Use Naomi's complaint and [Psalm 22](#) as a model. Close your lament by remembering God's faithfulness in detail and committing to walk with him in faith.

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