



Loneliness is a longing to be home.

...but Ruth clung to her. ¹⁵ "Look," said Naomi, "your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her." ¹⁶ But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. ¹⁷ Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me." ¹⁸ When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her. 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."

Ruth 1:14-21 (NIV)

- **Left unchecked, loneliness may lead into bitterness.**
- **Loneliness is not God's punishment.**
- **Loneliness is a pathway to the security and purpose we desire.**

¹⁹ ...Then Ruth told her mother-in-law about the one at whose place she had been working. "The name of the man I worked with today is Boaz," she said. ²⁰ "The Lord bless him!" Naomi said to her daughter-in-law. "He has not stopped showing his kindness to the living and the dead." She added, "That man is our close relative; he is one of our guardian-redeemers."

Ruth 2:19-20 (NIV)

The guardian-redeemer is the person obligated by the Levitical law to redeem a relative in severe hardship.

⁹ Then Boaz announced to the elders and all the people, "Today you are witnesses that I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelek, Kilion and Mahlon. ¹⁰ I have also acquired Ruth the Moabite, Mahlon's widow, as my wife, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property, so that his name will not disappear from among his family or from his hometown. Today you are witnesses!" ¹¹ Then the elders and all the people at the gate said, "We are witnesses. May the Lord make the woman who is coming into your home like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the family of Israel. May you have standing in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem. ¹² Through the offspring the Lord gives you by this young woman, may your family be like that of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah." ¹³ So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When he made love to her, the Lord enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son...¹⁶ Then Naomi took the child in her arms and cared for him. ¹⁷ The women living there said, "Naomi has a son!" And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

Ruth 4:9-13, 16-17 (NIV)

- **God cares for us, and He is involved in our daily lives.**
- **In my loneliness, God wants to work His greater purpose.**

⁵ A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. ⁶ God sets the lonely in families.

Psalms 68:5-6 (NIV)

Through King David's lineage, Jesus Christ became the Guardian-Redeemer for all humanity.

TEACHING BIG IDEA:

Jesus Christ is the Redeemer who brings the lonely home.

- **Jesus started a new family He called the church. The church is God's home for His family.**
- **While the church is made up of broken people who are far from perfect, we must remain loyal to one another because Jesus has been loyal to us.**
- **Home is where I'm secure in God's love and I can share His love with others.**



The key to surviving the wilderness of loneliness is selflessness.

When we choose to be selfless, God turns our loneliness into purpose.

In my loneliness, God works all things for good when I choose to love others as an expression of my love for Him.

²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. ³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. ³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

Romans 8:28-32 (NIV)

SERIES BIG IDEA:

Loneliness is a gift that leads me to Jesus and allows me to experience His greater grace.



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TEACHING SUMMARY:

Loneliness is the evidence of a longing deep within us to be home. Home is a place where we are secure and where we have purpose. The Book of Ruth is a beautiful story of lonely widows who are redeemed by Boaz. The story of Ruth's loyalty to Naomi and Boaz's generosity and compassion towards Ruth reveal how God cares for us and is involved in our daily lives.

After Boaz married Ruth, they had a son named Obed. Eventually, Ruth became the great-grandmother of King David. God redeemed Ruth and her loneliness to work His greater purpose. Through Ruth's lineage, Jesus Christ would become the Guardian-Redeemer for all humanity. Jesus brings the lonely home.

Jesus created a new family called the church. The church is God's home for his family until we are forever with Christ. We may be broken and imperfect, but we must remain loyal to love one another the way God has loved us through Jesus Christ. God wants to work all things for the good of those who love Him. God wants to redeem our loneliness and generously give us all things.

TALK-IT-OVER:

What is a great memory or feeling of home?

Have you experienced the prison of bitterness? What led to that? What changed?

Where is one place you can become more selfless?

What is one next step you need to take today?

Who do you need to tell about what you've learned?

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING:

Day 1) Psalm 36:6-8

Day 2) John 13:34-35

Day 3) 1 Thessalonians 4:9-10

Day 4) John 15:12-13

Day 5) 1 John 4:7-19

Day 6) Romans 12:9-10

Father, bring me home.

May I find security in Your love.

May I embrace my purpose to selflessly love.