

**Ruth 1:1–18; 2:8–13;
3:6–13; 4:13, 17**

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

Philippians 2:3–4

MEMORY VERSE

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. **Philippians 2:3–4**

No food, a deceased husband and sons—nothing could be more devastating for a woman in the culture of Ruth and Naomi. Women widowed and without sons were mere outcasts in society, with no one to care for them. The outlook of Ruth and Naomi had to be pretty hopeless.

What happens in the life of teens when they experience hopelessness? Some turn to drugs, sex, alcohol, or other ways of escape. Some begin to think of ways they could end their lives.

Teenagers are at a vulnerable time in their lives. They thrive on the sense of security and hope. As they grow and mature both physically and emotionally, they lean heavily upon stable figures in their lives.

Read Ruth 1:1–18. Despite her own difficult circumstances, having lost her own husband, Ruth displayed her faithfulness not only to her mother-in-law, Naomi, but also to the God who was not her own, but who she knew to be true. Somehow, Ruth must have known that with the God of Naomi there was hope.

The lives we live before God are a witness to our teens that there is always hope no matter what the circumstances. If teenagers see our trust in God in the decisions we make both in good and bad times, they will see the results and the stability that comes in walking faithfully with God.

FAMILY DEVOTION TIME

Connect . . .

The family lays out a faith timeline on a long sheet of paper. Parents go first and reach back to the beginning of their marriage, noting the steps of faith and trust that were made and the results. Next, the children add steps of faith as they entered the picture and began to express faith. Discuss the impact that faith and trust in God has had on your family.

Explore . . .

A family member reads Ruth 1:1–18. The family discusses: **What do you think the implications of such difficult circumstances would be in a culture like Ruth and Naomi's? Did men value women who were old and widowed? Why would Ruth's decision to remain with Naomi be such a big step of faith?**

Transform . . .

The family shares together some big hurdles they are facing in which they need to apply trust and faith in God. The family prays over these individual circumstances. Remember that prayer is the biggest step you will take in beginning to express faith in God over your circumstances.

Pray that God will help you to have faith in Him and not in your own ability to overcome your difficulties.