

JOURNEY

Part Three: Is it time for a life 'Reset'?

Ruth 1:6-18

Naomi's 'reset' is her **RETURN** to God vs. 6-13

DECIDE: Make a **CHOICE to return** to the path toward God vs. 6
From Moab toward the Promise Land of Judah

DETACH: Say **GOODBYE** to places, people in enemy territory vs. 7-9

DETERMINE: Stay **RESOLUTE** to the difficult return vs. 11, 13
Naomi acknowledges the embarrassment and shame

Ruth's 'reset' is her **FIRST STEP** toward God vs. 12-18

DECIDE: Ruth's **RECOGNITION** of the cost vs. 12-15
Ruth risked **HARDSHIP** in Judah

DETACH: Ruth's total **COMMITMENT** to the reset vs. 16-17
Ruth pledges all areas of her life; calls on Name of the LORD

DETERMINE: Ruth's **RESOLVE** to the full fresh start vs. 18
Naomi saw that Ruth was **FIXED** in her resolution

Life Group Discussion Questions – January 28, 2024

Ruth 1:16-18 But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. Thus may the LORD do to me, and worse, if anything but death parts you and me." When she saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

DISCOVER

1. How does the moment of salvation provide the ultimate restart for the life of a new believer? What is a new believer running toward or attaching to? What does it mean to detach ourselves from old ways? What did you detach from when you became a believer or went through a reset? For long-time believers, how does the concept of a fresh start apply to you?
2. What have you seen in others that led them to return to God? If a person is returning to God, that means they had distanced themselves from Him. Why might it be good for a person to experience loneliness, heartache, or other dilemmas when they walk into the wilderness?
3. When have you had a wilderness experience of your own making? Share the hope and anticipation you experienced in a recommitment. What role can fellow believers have in helping the lost return to a full relationship with Christ and the Church?

EXPLORE

1. Read Ruth 1:6-18. How did God use calamities to stir Naomi into returning to the Promised Land? What are some reasons that might have led Orpah to return to her mother's house? In contrast, what was the breadth of Ruth's commitment to follow Naomi? Based on the scripture reading, what kind of relationship did Naomi seem to have with her daughters-in-law? How did this likely play into Ruth's decision to follow Naomi? What can we learn about maintaining good relationships with those who do not yet know God?
2. Why did Ruth's commitment have to be so total? What might the impact have been on Naomi, the leader, when Ruth, the follower, promised her loyalty? What would you want to know before making a life-changing commitment to someone?
3. Read Luke 14:25-33. Describe the commitment Jesus expected from those wanting to follow Him. Compare this to the circumstances that Ruth found herself in, and her reaction. The crowds surrounding Jesus would likely have been stunned to hear His teaching. Explain why this teaching seems difficult even today. Explain why Jesus was right using examples from scripture or your own experience.

EXPERIENCE

1. In your experience, what can go wrong if a reset in a relationship or mission is half-hearted? Does this mean you should never try something new without completely buying in? Explain.
2. How has God set the stage for you to be pressed into a decision that would lead to a reset or opened the door for you to have a fresh start? What was the impact on your ongoing walk with the Lord and relationship with others?
3. Share a part of your life that needs to be rededicated to the Lord whether it be your thought life, Bible reading, marriage commitment, work ethic or anything else. Ask your group to pray for God's transformation in your reset beginning this week.

PRAY

Pray... Father, we know in our hearts that we should not move, even a little bit, away from Your presence. Yet, we are prone to wander. May we hear Your gentle whisper calling us to stay aligned with Your will. And we pray that our walk will attract others to move toward You. Amen.