Naomi

We meet Naomi at a good place in her life. She is married to a respected man with not one, but two sons, both of whom found wives in Moab that became just like her very own daughters. Then, unspeakable tragedy visited Naomi's contented life - once, twice, three times! All the security she had previously known with a husband and *two* sons to protect her was tragically lost. Naomi found herself destitute with two daughters-in-law in her care. Life looked bleak. In her grief, Naomi understandably experienced great bitterness of soul, the extent of which caused her to withdraw into her own myopic world.

But God had a plan.

God was going to redeem Naomi's tragedy. Only by traveling through her grief not on the Express train, but the slower way of the day-to-day "feels" - was Naomi's bitterness eventually replaced with pleasure.

Naomi's life is a testimony for us to this truth -

"I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living." Psalm 27:13

Keep on, keeping on, sister. God has a plan to redeem your tragedies, too.

1. List all the "facts" you know about Naomi from the today's Bible reading, including the meaning of her two names.

Day 1

Read Ruth 1-4

2. Research and describe the world in which Naomi lived. What was it like to live as a widow?

1. Write a character sketch of Naomi based on what is revealed about her life, her choices and her actions from today's readings. (Think: character qualities)

Day 2

Reread Ruth 1-4

2. What can you infer about Naomi's thoughts or beliefs based on her actions described in today's readings? 1.What pivotal point(s) in Naomi's life do you see? What was her response to each?

Day 3

Reread Ruth 1-4

2. What can we learn from Naomi's life or her example? Be specific.

1. How do you relate to Naomi or elements from her story?

Day 4

Reread Ruth 1-4

2. What is God showing you through Naomi's testimony? 1. What overall theme(s) do you notice in Naomi's life?

2. From the above list, pick the one theme God is impressing upon you and research what His Word has to say on that specific topic.

Day 5

Reread Ruth 1-4

3. Write a third person introduction to Naomi based on your personal application from number 2.