

## Discussion Guide Part 3

April 22, 2018

### The Way Home



1. Read Ruth 1:6-18
  
2. Naomi hears great news! “She had heard in the fields of Moab that the Lord had visited his people and given them food.”<sup>1</sup> Proverbs 25:25 reads “Like cold water to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.” Can you relate? Can you share an experience when your soul longed for good news and it came? Describe your reaction!  

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3. The notion of God visiting his people is a technical phrase loaded with wonderful meaning. Notice some of these references and note what happened when God visited his people:
  - a. 1 Samuel 2:21
  - b. Psalm 65:9
  - c. Jeremiah 27:2
  - d. Luke 7:68
  - e. 1 Peter 2:12

If someone were to ask, “What does it mean when God visits his people, what would you say? \_\_\_\_\_  
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<sup>1</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Ru 1:6). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.

4. Pastor Jim pointed out that the key word in the passage is the word 'return' "(Hebrew *shub*, also rendered in the ESV as "turn, go, or bring back") recurs 12 times in this chapter (vv. 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 15 [twice], 16, 21, 22 [twice]). In the passage we read 3 action words applied to Naomi when she heard the good news. What are they?<sup>1</sup> (The first is given):

- a. "She arose" (v6a)
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ (v7a); and
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ (v7b).

What is significant about that considering a person wanting to "return home"? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. Jim noted the grace of God that reached Naomi, in the fields of Moab, with good news Oswald Chambers wrote, "*I have never met a person I could despair of, or lose all hope for, after discerning what lies in me apart from the grace of God.*" How does God's grace reaching to unlikely places encourage you? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Jim suggested that metaphorically we Christians can "sojourn" in our Moab. Robert Robinson wrote the hymn 'Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing'. Two lines in the lyrics are:

*Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
Prone to leave the God I love;*

Can you identify with Robinson's confession? Where do you tend to wander from time to time? What do you do to return? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. Knowing what you know about the story of Ruth and knowing the story of the Prodigal, what encouragement is there for every prodigal who chooses to return? What can they expect to find on their return? \_\_\_\_\_

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8. Jim said, “Wherever we find ourselves, we must get up and leave what is separating us from Christ, no matter the cost – and come home.” Do you need to come home? What will it cost you? Why would you wait? \_\_\_\_\_

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“Naomi’s response to the report of good news from the homeland is decisive, expressed in three simple verbs: with her daughters-in-law she *arose*, she *returned* from the territory of Moab, and she *went out* from the place where she was staying.” - Block, D. I. (1999). *Judges, Ruth* (Vol. 6, pp. 631–632). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.