

## Discussion Guide Part 4

April 29, 2018

### Glimpses of Hope



1. Read Ruth 1:19-2:1
  
2. Romans 8:31 reminds us that promise “. . . *If God is for us, who can be against us*”? Have you ever felt that everything was against you, including God? If you are able will you share what happened?  

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3. Many expositors think that the stress and strain on Naomi caused her to show her age and her predicament. She named herself Mara. She may have gotten that from Exodus 15:23. What was she communicating by this name change? \_\_\_\_\_  

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4. Pastor Jim pointed out that God gave her two glimpses of hope: the barley harvest and knowledge of a kinsman-redeemer. Can you think of a trying situation where amid the turmoil God gave you small but significant glimpses of hope? How did it encourage you?  

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5. There is a hope that will disappoint. Biblical hope is more like a down-payment than a desire or wishful thinking. Hope is based upon a promise. What promise gives you hope today? Will you share it? \_\_\_\_\_  

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God is the God of Hope. To have God is to have hope. According to Romans 15:13, how does God apply hope? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Read Romans 5:2-5. Hope in this passage, as it is in many, is not a verb. It is a noun. What produces hope, in this passage?

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7. Hope is not produced in a vacuum. Hope-filled people have had their character molded by misery<sup>1</sup>. Have you prayed and asked God to change your character according to His will, in your painful circumstances, knowing that this is where hope comes from? If not will you?

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<sup>1</sup> "Character that has been shaped by God through suffering has amazing abilities that non-character simply doesn't. It's capable of seeing beyond circumstances. It knows that God is faithful. It embraces the truth of the Gospel that if God sent His Son, He spares nothing for the good of His children. All this produces hope, that is, the confidence that God delivers on His promises. The stronger the character, the greater the hope..." *Suffering, Endurance and Character; The Christian Worldview Journal*