



## Sermon Discussion Questions

Hope in Suffering // Ruth 1

- If you could choose your family, what would you look for in an ideal family member? In what ways can you relate to Naomi, Ruth, or Orpah?
- What has loss and difficulty done to Naomi's perspective on life? On God? How does Naomi's perspective shape her responses and choices in chapter 1?
- Think about a time that you wanted to (or did) walk away from God, your family, or church; what made that seem like a good idea?
- Look at Ruth's expression of commitment to Naomi (and her family, community, and God). Have you ever been surprised by someone's unexpectedly gracious, generous, or kind response to you? How did you respond?
- Ruth hasn't suffered as much as Naomi, but she seems to have a very different attitude towards her life and circumstances. The text doesn't tell us what prompted this amazing commitment from Ruth. What do you think would generate a response like this from a widowed, childless Moabite, towards an embittered, impoverished Israelite mother-in-law?
- How have you seen God grow your faith through difficulty? What things have you learned about yourself or about God that you might not have learned otherwise?
- How does this chapter encourage or challenge you in your suffering, difficulty, losses?
- We were encouraged to write out a 6-8 word "breath" prayer for us to use when we become impatient? Share with the group what your breath prayer is and how you've been using it.