

# Growth Teams

Week Beginning  
Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2017

## Going deeper

There are a number of Psalms and places in the Bible where, like Naomi, people lament their troubles and difficulties. These passages come across as negative and bitter, but they also contain a deeper hope than can be found in other places. Lamentations was written by Jeremiah. It laments the utter destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians in 587BC.

## Read Lamentations 3:1-3, 16-33

5. Who does Jeremiah say has afflicted him? How does this compare with Naomi's statement in Ruth 1:20-21?
6. How does Jeremiah feel as he writes this?
7. Where does Jeremiah look for hope?
8. Why can Jeremiah be confident of God's goodness?
9. What does he say we should do in the midst of such suffering?

***Now do the applying it to our lives questions...***

## Growth Team News

This week is the last official Growth Team week before the summer break. Growth Teams will start back again on the week beginning September 17<sup>th</sup>.

We are also hoping to start one or two *Explore Teams* beginning the first week in October. These will be a great opportunity for people who are considering the Christian faith, new to faith or wanting to go back to basics to meet, learn more and ask questions. More information in September.



**Growing in Christ  
to glorify God  
and enjoy Him forever.**

## Bitter Naomi

### Ruth 1 (page 267)

Space to take notes on the talk

- Elimelech : Is God \_\_\_\_\_?
  
- Naomi's \_\_\_\_\_: Is God \_\_\_\_\_?
  
  
- God is \_\_\_\_\_:
  
  
- ✓ Ruth's \_\_\_\_\_
  
  
- ✓ Boaz's \_\_\_\_\_

## Starter question

- ❖ What is the saddest story you have ever heard?

## Responding to the talk

1. What do you think are the key lessons from the first half of Ruth?
  
2. Read Ruth 1:1-5, 19-22
  - a. Why is Naomi bitter?
  - b. What does Naomi believe about God?
  - c. How would you have responded to Naomi's comments in verses 20-21 if you were one of the Bethlehem women?
3. Read Ruth 1:6-18
  - a. What does Naomi's prayer in verse 8 show about her daughters-in-laws and her God?
  - b. What does Naomi believe is the best course of action for her Ruth and Orpah?
  - c. What is remarkable about what Ruth says in verses 16-17?
4. Read Ruth 2:1-22
  - a. Who takes the initiative to get food for Naomi?
  - b. Why is Boaz impressed with Ruth?
  - c. How does Boaz show 'kindness' (cf. 2:20) to Ruth and Naomi?
  - d. Where is God in all this?

*You may like to do the 'Going Deeper' questions over the page.*

## Applying it to our lives

10. How does Ruth's example show us how we should support those in the midst of grief?
  
11. Naomi was totally focussed on what had gone wrong in life (1:20-21). When we feel like that, how can we learn to see the bigger picture?