



A HARVEST STORY

RUTH

AND

Starting Over

When You Don't Feel Like It

*Part 2*

*Ruth 1:6-22*

NAOMI











A person is seen from behind, standing in a field of tall, golden-brown grass or wheat. The person is wearing a light-colored, long-sleeved shirt and dark pants. The background features a vast landscape with rolling hills under a sky filled with warm, orange and yellow clouds, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent geometric pattern of overlapping triangles in shades of yellow and orange.

**It's never OK to try to run  
away from your troubles.**



A gravel path splits into two directions in a forest, symbolizing a crossroads. The path is surrounded by lush green grass and trees with some autumn-colored leaves. The scene is peaceful and contemplative.

# Crossroads

God brings us to these  
**CROSSROADS** at very strategic  
moments in our lives.



## *Lessons from Naomi*

1. She wonders if maybe God's "*out to get her*" (vs. 13b).
2. She feels empty (vs. 21), lonely & hopeless (vv. 11-13).
3. In the process of her hurt, she becomes self-consumed (vv. 20-21).
4. All of these feelings, left to themselves, lead to bitterness (vs. 20).







# ***God is saying to us...***

**“Do you see how I directed these lives? Let me show you how and why I did that. This is the kind of God that I am. That is the kind of thing I do; and that is precisely what you may expect me to do in your lives, too. Trust me! I know exactly what I am doing!”**





## *Lessons from Ruth*

**Ruth makes an amazing, powerful,  
statement of faith! (vv. 16-17)**

- 1. It means... leaving her own family and friends, & culture and land.**
- 2. It means... as far as she knows, a life of widowhood and childlessness.**
- 3. It means... going to an unknown land with a new people and new customs and new language.**
- 4. It means... a commitment even more radical than marriage.**



**Here we have a picture of God's ideal woman.**

- 1. Faith in God that sees beyond present bitter setbacks.**
- 2. Freedom from the securities and comforts of the world.**
- 3. Courage to venture into the unknown and the strange.**
- 4. Radical commitment in the relationships appointed by God.**
- 5. Total acceptance of God's sovereign plan for life**





# Principles & Applications:



- 1. God brings us to spiritual crossroads at very strategic moments in our lives.***



# Principles & Applications:



***2. Don't ever think that the failures of your past mean there is no hope for your future.***



# Principles & Applications:



- 3. If God calls, you can leave family, you can leave your job, you can leave the states and move to Guam, or you can leave Guam and move to ... and you can make radical commitments and undertake new ventures.*



# Principles & Applications:



- 4. When you believe in the sovereignty of God, it gives a freedom and joy and confidence that can't be shaken by hard times.*



# A HARVEST STORY: RUTH & NAOMI

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Part 1 - *You Can Run But You Can't Hide (1:1-5)*

Part 2 - *Starting Over When You Don't Feel Like It (1:6-22)*

Part 3 & 4 - *Finding God's Hand in the "Coincidences" of Life (2:1-3:18)*

Part 5 - *God Always Writes the Last Chapter (4:1-22)*

