

## THE STORY CHAPTER 9 DESCENDING INTO GREATNESS

### Key Verse:

*“Don’t ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD punish me severely if I allow anything but death to separate us!” Ruth 1:16-17*

### Questions for Discussion

1. Share an example of a time in your life where you knew that God was with you, or you felt strongly that God loved YOU. How did that affect your faith?
2. Share an example of a time in your life where it felt like God was nowhere to be found? How did you respond?
3. Like Naomi, we all have allowed false labels to be placed on our identity. For Naomi, she renamed herself “bitter.” She believed a lie that God had left her, and she received a false label from the enemy, saying that she was bitter. As a group, take a minute of silence and ask the Holy Spirit if you have presently accepted a label that doesn’t align with what God thinks about you? After you share your labels, take a minute and ask Holy Spirit what new label He would like to give you.
4. Ruth was a great example of someone who was willing to surrender to God’s way instead of her own. Is there an area of your life that you need to surrender? Do one or more of these apply to you?
  - I need to surrender the way I treat my relative(s). Instead of trying to control them into being who I think they should be, I need to love them into the way that God wants them to be.
  - I need to surrender the way I spend my time. I put my hobbies or habits above God and others.
  - I need to surrender my way of thinking. I spend an inordinate amount of time pondering thoughts that are negative, or full of fear, or not in alignment with God’s Word.
  - I need to surrender my agenda, and my definition of happiness, for God’s will for my life.
5. God is wanting to continuously reveal the power of His commitment and love to you. Like Naomi, her perspective blinded her from seeing how much God still loved her, even in her tragedy. She was so bitter, that she didn’t recognize God loving her through Ruth. Where in your life are you not feeling His love? What new perspective might He want to give you, so that you can connect with Him in a greater way?