



Living an *Amazingly* Ordinary Life

When Things Go Bad

11.6.22

It's in the everyday that God does stuff.

Just because you think you live a plain, ordinary life, doesn't mean that God is not doing something amazing.

In the days when the judges ruled in Israel, a man from Bethlehem in Judah left the country because of a severe famine. He took his wife and two sons and went to live in the country of Moab. The man's name was Elimelech, and his wife was Naomi. Their two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were from Bethlehem in the land of Judah. Ruth 1:1-2

Elimelech died and Naomi was left with her two sons. The two sons married Moabite women. One married a woman named Orpah, and the other a woman named Ruth. But about ten years later, both Mahlon and Kilion died. This left Naomi alone, without her husband or sons. Ruth 1:3-5

When Naomi heard that the Lord had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them, she and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home. With her two daughters-in-law she left the place where she had been living and set out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah. Ruth 1:6-7

But on the way, Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back to your mothers' homes instead of coming with me." Ruth 1:8

When ordinary 'bad' keeps happening...

I isolate.

I blame God

"No," they said. "We want to go with you to your people." But Naomi replied, "Why should you go on with me? No, of course not, my daughters! Things are far more bitter for me than for you, because the Lord himself has caused me to suffer." Ruth 1:10, 13

I become bitter.

"Don't call me Naomi," she told them. "Instead, call me Mara, For the Almighty has made life very bitter for me. I went away full, but the Lord has brought me home empty. Why should you call me Naomi when the Lord has caused me to suffer and the Almighty has sent such tragedy?" Ruth 1:20-21

Tell God what you're feeling.

Take along some 'traveling companions'

Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye. But Ruth insisted on staying with Naomi. But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God." Ruth 1:16

I may be in the middle of a good ending.

The circumstances of life do not change the truth about God.

For your LifeGroup and growth time.

Read Ruth 1:1-21. Discuss the situation and what happened. Some think they were out of God's will by leaving Judah. What do you think?

Talk about how you would feel if you were Ruth. What questions do you think she'd like to ask God? What questions do you want to ask God when things are going haywire?

Is it really OK to pour out your emotions to God when you are feeling bugged at life? Why or why not? (read Psalm 13).

What have you had to go through that has put you on the edge of becoming bitter? Has it been resolved? How?

Do you feel like you have a 'traveling companion' to go through life with?

If you'd like to grow in your faith and connect with others, LifeGroups are a great place for you. For more information, drop us your name and we'll get back to you (emma@marinerscc.org)