



Strength for the Journey

“Trouble with Life”



Notes:

3. What does it mean to you that another of God’s names is Yahweh—the covenant Lord who is faithful?

4. Ask one member of your group to read Romans 8:28 aloud and another person to read Ruth 4:13-17 aloud. How did the truth of Romans 8:28 play out in Naomi’s life?

5. How have you found the principle, that God ultimately manages our lives to good and glorious outcomes, to be true?

Dotted lines for taking notes.

Digging Deeper:

If your group has enough time (i.e., you’ve listened to the audio on your own), answer one or more of these optional questions.

1. What does Joe mean by saying that this story in the book of Ruth helps us understand that Jesus is our “kinsman redeemer”?

2. What point did God make by going to great pains to find a woman of Moab to bring into the line of Christ?

3. How can you relate to Joe’s reference to an ancient form of Chinese drama, where we find ourselves on level one, totally clueless about what is happening on level two?

Strength through Sharing:

1. Joe says that Naomi’s predicament in Ruth 1 reminds him of a woman in the old silent movies who is tied to railroad tracks. If you freeze-frame that scene, you end up with a really bad movie. How much of a tendency do you have to “freeze-frame” your life when you come into hard times?

2. How hard is it for you, when you don’t see God doing anything, to trust Him in times of trouble? How can you grow in that area?



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Strength through Prayer:

Spend a few moments as a group in silent, personal prayer. Ask God to give you the tender heart reflected in the woman who prayed on behalf of her small church following the death of the third young child in a year.

You may want to begin your prayer with these words:

“Father God, in the time of trouble, trust is all I have. You are capable and faithful, the rock on which I can stand. Like the woman in that village church, I do not know why You sometimes permit terrible circumstances. Lord, it is not mine to ask why, but to trust You. So, dear Lord, teach me to trust You.”

When you are finished with this time for silent, personal prayer, you may want to move into a time of group prayer, praying for one another.

Closing Call to Action:

Perhaps you, or someone you know, struggle with trusting God. It’s important to trust in God’s character even when you don’t see Him doing anything. God is capable of solving your problem and of taking you through to victory. Not only that, but He is faithful, which means you are His covenant child. He will help you in His time and in His right way, and you are to trust in that.

It’s a matter of upping the trust factor in your life. This doesn’t mean you won’t feel any tension, but it does mean that at the end of the day you trust God. Maybe this needs to be your prayer: Lord, teach me to trust You