



Luke 17:5 NLT The apostles said to the Lord,
"Show us HOW TO INCREASE OUR FAITH."

Enlarging our ability to confidently trust in God and in His power
IN Favor resources video teaching series

#15 HOLDING ON TO OUR FAITH: IN OUR LONELINESS

Ruth 1:9 Then she kissed them goodbye and they wept aloud¹⁰ and said to her, "We will go back with you to your people."¹¹ But Naomi said, "Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands?"¹² Return home, my daughters; I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me—even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons—¹³ would you wait until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them? No, my daughters. *It is more bitter for me than for you, because the LORD's hand has turned against me!*"¹⁴ At this they wept aloud again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye ...

It is _____ to _____ God for our _____, and to believe that our situation is _____ than anyone else's.

... but Ruth clung to her.¹⁵ "Look," said Naomi, "your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her."¹⁶ 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.¹⁷ Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me."

It turns out that Naomi _____.

¹⁸ When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.¹⁹ So the two women went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they arrived in Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them, and the women exclaimed, "Can this be Naomi?"²⁰ *"Don't call me Naomi," she told them. "Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter. ²¹ I went away full, but the LORD has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi? The LORD has afflicted me; the Almighty has brought misfortune upon me."*

3:1 One day Ruth's mother-in-law Naomi said to her, "My daughter, I must find a home for you, where you will be well provided for."

Not only did _____ need _____; _____ needed _____!

Ruth 4:14 The women said to Naomi: "*Praise be to the LORD, who this day has not left you without a guardian-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel!*"¹⁵ He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. For your daughter-in-law, who loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has given him birth."¹⁶ Then Naomi took the child in her arms and cared for him.¹⁷ The women living there said, "Naomi has a son!"

(Matthew 1:5 Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse,⁶ and Jesse the father of King David.)

Pressing In:

Read Elijah's story in 1 Kings 19. *Elijah wasn't really alone, either.* He realized he needed other people, and he realized they needed him.



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