

The Long Road Home

SETTING THE SCENE

The Places And People In The Story

- ▶ When “judges” ruled:
- ▶ Bethlehem in Judah:
- ▶ Moab:
- ▶ Elimelech:
- ▶ Naomi:

THE WRONG DIRECTION

ALWAYS EQUALS THE WRONG DESTINATION

Ruth 1:1-5

- ▶ Dead ends and famines can be:
 - A mess **we made**
 - A mess **someone else made**
 - Setting the stage **for a miracle**
 - Just **life**

THE FIRST TWO STEPS BACK HOME

- ❶ Pursue **obedience** more than **comfort**.
- ❷ The best new chapters begin with **faith** and **honesty**.

The Long Road Home

SETTING THE SCENE

The Places And People In The Story

- ▶ When “judges” ruled:
- ▶ Bethlehem in Judah:
- ▶ Moab:
- ▶ Elimelech:
- ▶ Naomi:

THE WRONG DIRECTION

ALWAYS EQUALS THE WRONG DESTINATION

Ruth 1:1-5

- ▶ Dead ends and famines can be:

A mess _____

A mess _____

Setting the stage _____

Just _____

THE FIRST TWO STEPS BACK HOME

- ❶ Pursue _____ more than _____.
- ❷ The best new chapters begin with _____ and _____.

1. We read this weekend about Naomi’s openness toward the difficulties and tough times in her life. The Bible has a lot to say about when life gets tough. In the book of Psalms, over half of the 150 Psalms are classified as lament psalms because they express concern over a difficult situation the author is facing. Read the following psalms for some good examples.

Psalm 3

Psalm 4

Psalm 28

How could these psalms give you hope in the midst of a tough situation you’re currently facing?

Each lament psalm has at least four similar elements – description of present need, prayer for help, commitment to offer praise, and sincere thanks to God. Because of this structure, these psalms provide a great model for us on how to pray when we’re facing difficult circumstances. Look back at the psalms above and identify each of the four elements.

Think of a situation in your life that you are concerned about. Jot down one or two thoughts regarding that situation under each of the elements.

Description of present need

Prayer for help

Commitment to offer praise

Sincere thanks to God

Now use those thoughts to express your own lament prayer to God.

2. When someone goes through suffering, it’s easy to wonder if it’s a result of sin. How does John 9:1-5 help answer that question?