

Discussion Guide -- “This Little Light”
Week of May 27, 2018

Read Judges 21:25; Ruth 1:1-22; Matthew 5:13-16

- The story of Ruth occurs during a dark time in the life of Naomi, and a dark time in the life of Israel (Judges 21:25; Ruth 1:1-5). Have you been through a “dark time” in your life? Discuss briefly the circumstances.
- What reasons did Naomi give to her daughters-in-law for not remaining with her (Ruth 1:6-18)?
- What is Naomi’s attitude in the midst of tragedy and loss? Who does she blame for all of her hardships (Ruth 1:13, 20)? Have you ever blamed God for hardships in your life?
- Naomi changed her name from Naomi, which means ‘pleasant,’ to Mara, which means ‘bitter.’ Why did she do that? Can you relate to the sense of hopelessness / bitterness she felt?
- How is God showing compassion and love to Naomi (Ruth 1:15-18)? Do you think Naomi is aware that God was working through Ruth? Do you think Ruth is aware of it? Has God ever worked through another person to show His love and compassion to you?
- Jesus talks about letting our light shine in Matthew 5:16. How was Ruth able to do this for Naomi? God used Ruth as an “instrument” to show His love and kindness to Naomi. How can you be an “instrument” of God to show love and kindness to someone today or this week? Give specific examples of what you could do.
- Spend some time in prayer. Pray that God will show you a way you can let your little light shine and be a “Ruth” to someone whose life has become “Mara.”