

# COMMUNITY GARDEN

Preschool  
Week 1

## Read Ruth 1

**“Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me.” Ruth 1:20.**

Mara means bitter. Naomi and Ruth returned to Bethlehem and Naomi wanted to be known as Mara, because she felt the Lord had dealt with her bitterly and left her empty. She felt this way even when she had good things that God placed in her life, like Ruth and returning to her hometown, Bethlehem. I am always so sad when I read this because it reminds me of someone, I know who lives life in this way; as though God only wants to punish and take things away from us, which is simply not true.

But it does feel that way sometimes, so I also get sad when I read this because sometimes, I get stuck in this same headspace. I catch myself believing the lies that God is simply out to get us, take away things we love, and leaves us wondering what we did to deserve it, when none of this is true. God does not change, though life and seasons do, his goodness is steady and unwavering.

Sometimes the hard things in life are consequences of the choices we have made. Sometimes they are consequences of other people’s actions and the broken human world we live in that is desperately crying for Jesus. When I remember this truth, I remember that I can trust God. He is good, he is loving, he loves me, and wants good for me. We all need Jesus and the hard things in life are constant proof of that.

I can trust God. He is with me no matter what. He wants to laugh with me, cry with me—just be with me in whatever comes my way. He does not want me to be bitter and question his goodness. In his goodness I can find rest and the cure for bitter hurt that tries to takeover my heart.

**Is there anything in your life that makes you bitter or question God's goodness?**

**How did you remind yourself of God's goodness in hard seasons of life, that left you with questions?**

**What are you thankful for in this season?**

**How can you see God's goodness in your life right now?**