

The Joyful Survivor: Turning Grief into Gratitude

1. Don't deny your pain. Just keep moving forward.

Don't call me Naomi," she responded. "Instead, call me Mara, for the Almighty has made life very bitter for me. I went away full, but the Lord has brought me home empty. Why call me Naomi when the Lord has caused me to suffer and the Almighty has sent such tragedy upon me?" **Ruth 1:20-21 NLT**

...Naomi heard in Moab that the Lord had blessed his people in Judah by giving them good crops again. So Naomi and her daughters-in-law got ready to leave Moab to return to her homeland. **Ruth 1:6 NLT**

2. Focus on who stays not on who leaves.

...Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye. But Ruth clung tightly to Naomi. "Look," Naomi said to her, "your sister-in-law has gone back to her people..you should do the same." But Ruth replied, "Don't ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord punish me severely if I allow anything but death to separate us!" When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she said nothing more. **Ruth 1:14-18 NLT**

3. Watch God open doors for you and those you love and be grateful!

One day..Ruth went out to gather grain behind the harvesters. And as it happened, she found herself working in a field that belonged to Boaz, the [wealthy] relative of her father-in-law, Elimelech. While she was there, Boaz arrived.."The Lord be with you!" he said. "The Lord bless you!" the harvesters replied. Then Boaz asked.."Who is that young woman over there? Who does she belong to?" **Ruth 2:1-5 NLT**

"He is showing his kindness to us as well as to your dead husband. That man is one of our closest relatives, one of our family redeemers. **Ruth 2:20 NLT**

4. Find purpose in serving others. Get your eyes off yourself.

So Boaz took Ruth into his home, and she became his wife..and she gave birth to a son. Then the women of the town said to Naomi, "Praise the Lord, who has now provided a redeemer for your family! May this child be famous in Israel. May he restore your youth and care for you in your old age.." Naomi ..cared for [the baby] as if he were her own. The neighbor women said, "Now at last Naomi has a son again!" And they named him Obed. He became the father of Jesse and the grandfather of David. **Ruth 4:13-17 NLT**

**Because of what Naomi, Ruth and Boaz did, Naomi goes from: Bitterness > Blessing
Unbelief > Faith Despair > Hope Empty > Full**

He comforts us whenever we suffer. That is why whenever other people suffer, we are able to comfort them by using the same comfort we have received from God. **2 Corinthians 1:4GW**

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted.. **Psalms 34:18a NCV**

The nights of crying your eyes out give way to days of laughter. **Psalms 30:5b MSG**

We have a redeemer: "You were bought at a price.." **1 Corinthians 6:20 NIV**

Message Notes: The Holy Bible, New living Translation, New Century Version. The Message, by Eugene Peterson.