

**Day One: Ruth 1**

1. Set the scene of this text (1). Describe the characters (1-5). What tragic situation did Naomi face (5)? What did she decide to do (6-7)? Why (6)? What did she say to her daughters-in-law (8-9)? Summarize the remainder of their interaction (9-15). Why did Ruth remain with Naomi (16-18)? Describe Naomi's encounter with the town's women when they arrived in Bethlehem (19-21). How does this passage conclude (22)?
2. In the sermon, Hannah said that loyalty is "being completely committed, no matter what." How does Ruth exemplify the quality of loyalty in this text? Meditate on her words in verses 16-17. Note that staying by Naomi's side was no guarantee of an easy life; in fact, it seemed to promise the opposite. Do you feel this loyal to anything or anyone in your life, no matter what? Engage the Lord in these reflections. What do you sense him asking of you?

**Day Two: Psalm 77**

1. What did the psalmist do, and under what conditions (1-2)? Describe the way he remembered the Lord (3-6). What questions did he ask God (7-9)? For the basis of his plea, which of the Lord's qualities did the psalmist bring into focus (10-14)? How do God's power and his ability to perform miracles manifest among people (15, 20)? What about in nature (16-19)?
2. Remembering what God has done helps us remain loyal to him. Why do you think this is so? How does remembrance help the psalmist? Trace his emotions from the beginning to the end of the text. Beyond cultivating loyalty, what are some of the other benefits of remembering God's deeds? At the end of each day this week, make a list of all that the Lord did for you and for others. What fruit do you think may come of this?

**Day Three: Matthew 26:6-13**

1. Where was Jesus (6)? Who came to him, and what did she do (7)? Consider this woman's story: was this her first encounter with Jesus? Was she rich or poor? Does she appear in any other gospel stories? How did the disciples respond to her act (8-9)? How was Jesus able to address their reaction (10)? What did he initially ask them (10)? What was his perception of the woman's act (10-12)? Describe her legacy (13).
2. When we tack "no matter what" on to a promise, we mean we intend to keep it even if it's costly. What did it cost the woman in this text to express loyalty to Jesus? Do you feel in any way like the disciples did: offended by her extravagant display of loyalty? Talk to the Lord about these feelings. What do you sense him speaking? In what areas of your life and in what ways is he asking you to express loyalty to him even when it's costly?

**Day Four: Luke 2:22-40**

1. Why did Mary and Joseph take Jesus to Jerusalem (22-24)? Describe Simeon (25). What did the Holy Spirit reveal to him and move him to do (26-27)? How did he react to Jesus' presence in the temple (28-32)? How did Joseph and Mary respond (33)? What did Simeon prophesy to Mary (34-35)? Describe Anna (36-37). What was her interaction with Jesus like (38)? Summarize this passage's conclusion (39-40).
2. Consider your ability to wait. Are you patient? How do your emotions and actions shift when you have to wait an especially long time? Re-read verses 25 and 37. With what posture did Simeon and Anna wait for the answer to Israel's bondage? Where did they wait? What did they do while waiting? Ask the Holy Spirit to make you more like Simeon and Anna: loyal as you wait on the Lord. What is the first step you will take to embody this change?

**Day Five: Hebrews 10:19-39**

1. Why should we draw near to God with sincerity and assurance (19-22)? Why should we hold on to hope (23)? Instead of giving up meeting together, what should we do (24-25)? What awaits those who deliberately sin despite knowing the truth (26-31)? Describe the persecution the letter's recipients endured (32-34). What reminders does the author give about our confidence in Christ and our perseverance (35-39)?
2. Re-read this text and jot down all of the habits the author encourages for remaining loyal to Jesus. Some of them are outward behaviors while others are a matter of beliefs and thoughts. Which ones do you sense are strengths in your spiritual life? Thank God for these gifts. Which ones do you think are opportunities to grow in loyalty to Jesus? Ask God for grace to do so. How will you begin to walk this out?