

The Best is yet to Come: God May be Quiet, but He is Never Absent  
Ruth 1:1-6  
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God can seem silent when we are disciplined for disobedience. – v. 1

- What is the root word of discipline? Hummmm????? Why is the root word so important to know during the discipline process?
- As a child, did you ever try to hide from your parent's discipline when you were disobedient? As an adult, have you ever tried to hide from God's discipline when you were disobedient? How has that worked for you? What are some things that God would *need* (critical word) to discipline you for? Does God need to discipline us? Why?
- Why are we so hesitant to talk about God's discipline? (It's almost "off limits" in many conversations.)
- How do discipline and mercy/compassion go hand in glove?
- What does Hebrews 12:11 say about discipline? Is it true??

God can seem silent when we go through seasons of change. – v. 2

- Have you ever considered consistency to be an idol? How can it be?
- What change(s) have you experienced and God seemed silent at the time, but later you saw His hand in it all?
- Change can cause suffering. How can suffering grow us? When have you REALLY suffered?

God can seem silent when we go through seasons of loss. – v. 3-5

- Have you ever cried out, "But God, it's not fair...?" Why? When it was all said and done, what did you learn...Learn about God and His nature? Learn about yourself?
- Read and MEMORIZE Romans 8:28. What is the most powerful word in that passage? This is probably one of the most spoken, memorized, and used scriptures. Is it easy or hard to believe in the core of your heart? Why?

God can seem silent when He is moving us to trust. – v. 6

- What does it mean to trust God? To really trust God!! On a scale of 1-10 how much do you really trust Him? (1 = very little, 10 = completely). What are some steps that you can take to lean into Him and grow and develop in your trust of Him?

**Call to action:** When you cannot hear the voice of God, trust his heart.

- Think/Read though scripture, what examples can you think of that show God is indeed trustworthy? (That should keep you busy for about the next month!). If His trustworthiness and faithfulness is proven over and over again, WHY is it so hard to really take to heart?
- What can help you grow in your trust in God? Share that with somebody and apply it this week.
- How has God been faithful and showed His trustworthiness to you today, this week, and this month?
- When is the last time you sat quietly to really listen to/listen for God's voice? Sit quietly for 30-60 minutes and see what He has to say to you.