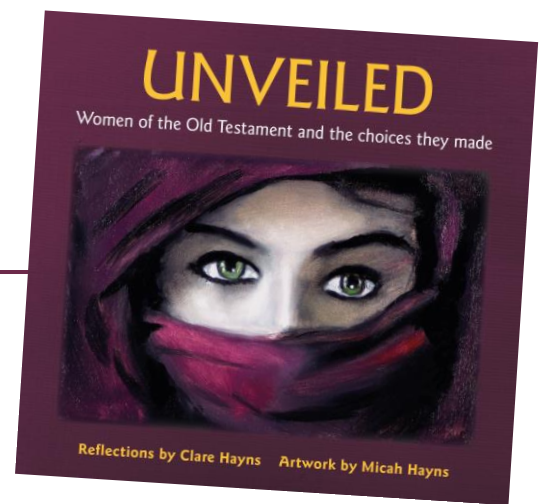


Unveiled

Women of the Old Testament and the choices they made



Discussion and reflection questions

Naomi and Ruth: faithful friendship

Recommended reading

- Ruth 1:1–5 The worst happens
- Ruth 1:16–18 Ruth's pledge
- Ruth 1:19–22 Naomi's homecoming
- Ruth 2:1–2 and Ruth 3:1–5 Mutual support
- Ruth 4:13–22 A happy ending

Questions

1. Do you agree with the quote below? What does friendship mean to you?

A true friend is someone who walks in when the rest of the world walks out.

WALTER WINCHELL

2. In the video, Clare spoke about her surprising friendship with a very elderly woman called Mari; Naomi and Ruth came from different backgrounds/faiths. Have you experienced an unlikely friendship? What did this teach you?
3. Why do you think Ruth decides to stay with Naomi?
4. What might we learn from the relationship between these two women?
5. Naomi experienced deep despair in her life but by the end of the book of Ruth she seemed to be content. What do you think enabled this transformation?

Prayer

Perhaps we can give thanks for our friendships and for those who have walked with us through difficult times. You may wish to write down their names and pray for them throughout the week.

Loving God, we thank you for the joy and comfort of friendships:
for those who have been there for us through the ups and downs of life;
for those who have walked beside us even when we've not been great company;
for those who have given us advice and guidance;
and for friends who are no longer with us and who we long to meet again.
Amen