SERIES: Unfinished
WEEK 3: God Can Restore Lost Years
TEXT: Ruth 1:19–22; 4:13–17 (ESV)

BIG IDEA: Loss may change our circumstances and our expectations, but it doesn't mean God has finished writing our story.

1. LOSS CAN CHANGE THE WAY WE SEE EVERYTHING

“She said to them, ‘Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. I went away full, and the LORD has brought me back empty.’” **Ruth 1:20–21 (ESV)**

"For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God." **Ruth 1:16 (ESV)**

"I went away full, and the LORD has brought me back empty." **Ruth 1:21a (ESV)**

"The LORD has testified against me and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me." **Ruth 1:21b** (**ESV)**

2. GOD CAN BE WORKING BEFORE WE RECOGNIZE IT

“So she *[Ruth]* set out and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers, and she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the clan of Elimelech.” **Ruth 2:3 (ESV)**

"You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good." **Genesis 50:20 (ESV)**

"For those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." **Romans 8:28 (ESV)**

3. AN EMPTY SEASON DOES NOT MEAN AN EMPTY FUTURE

“Then the women said to Naomi, ‘Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without a redeemer, and may his name be renowned in Israel!’”
Ruth 4:14 (ESV)

"The LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son." **Ruth 4:13 (ESV)**

"Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her lap and became his nurse."
Ruth 4:16 (ESV)

CONCLUSION

You may have lost the future you planned, but you haven't lost the future God can still give you.