

## Homesick During The Holidays

**Homesick:** A disconnection from the safety and security of home leading to loss of identity, resulting in a struggle with self-esteem and confidence. It is most often brought on by a change in environment coupled with the stress of a new challenge.

### Ruth 1

#### Naomi **isolates** herself

*"...Go back, each of you, to your mother's home. May the LORD show kindness to you, as you have shown to your dead and to me." (vs. 8)*

#### Naomi assumes God is **against** her

*"...No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me than for you, because the LORD's hand has gone out against me!" (vs. 13)*

#### Naomi's focus turns **inward**

*"So the two women went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they arrived in Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them, and the women exclaimed, "Can this be Naomi?" "Don't call me Naomi, "she told them. "Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter. I went away full, but the LORD has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi? The LORD has afflicted me; the Almighty has brought misfortune upon me." (vs. 19-21)*

### Luke 1

#### Mary **trusts** God in her circumstance

*"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." (vs. 38)*

#### Mary **engages** community

*"At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!"*

*"Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home." (vs. 39 – 45, & 56)*

#### Mary's focus turns to **praise**

*"And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me— holy is his name." (vs. 46 – 49)*

### Small Group Questions

1. If you are comfortable, share a lonely time in your life.
2. In this holiday season are you currently experiencing loneliness in an area of your life?
3. Are there certain circumstances or situations in your life that cause you to believe God is 'against' you?
4. Read Mary's Song in Luke 1:46 – 55. What specific attributes is she praising God for? When is the last time you praised God for those attributes?
5. How can you 'be a miracle' for someone that is in a lonely place this holiday season?