

A woman with dark hair, wearing a brown tunic and a green shawl, is shown from the waist up. She is holding a large bundle of golden straw or hay in her right hand. She is looking upwards and to the right with a thoughtful expression. The background is a dark, textured, mottled grey-blue.

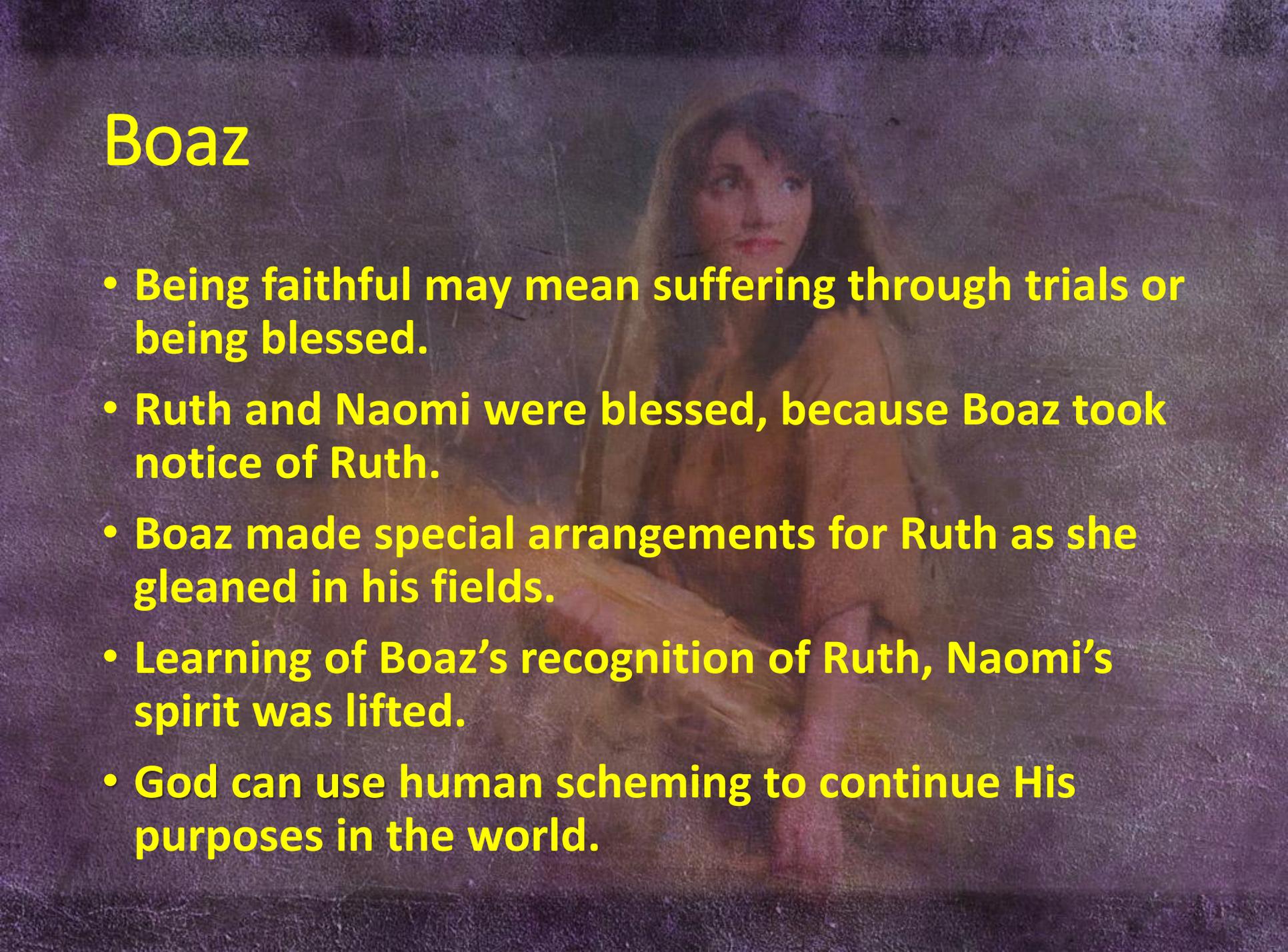
Life-Giving Companions

Ruth1:1-4:1

The Return

- After her husband and sons died, Naomi decided to return to Bethlehem.
- Naomi encouraged her daughters-in-law to return to their own homes.
- Ruth refused to stay and returned with Naomi.
- When Naomi returned, she continued to stew in her own misery, while Ruth got busy living.
- Naomi and Ruth had no means of support because they were both widows.
- Ruth labored in the fields to keep them alive.

Boaz

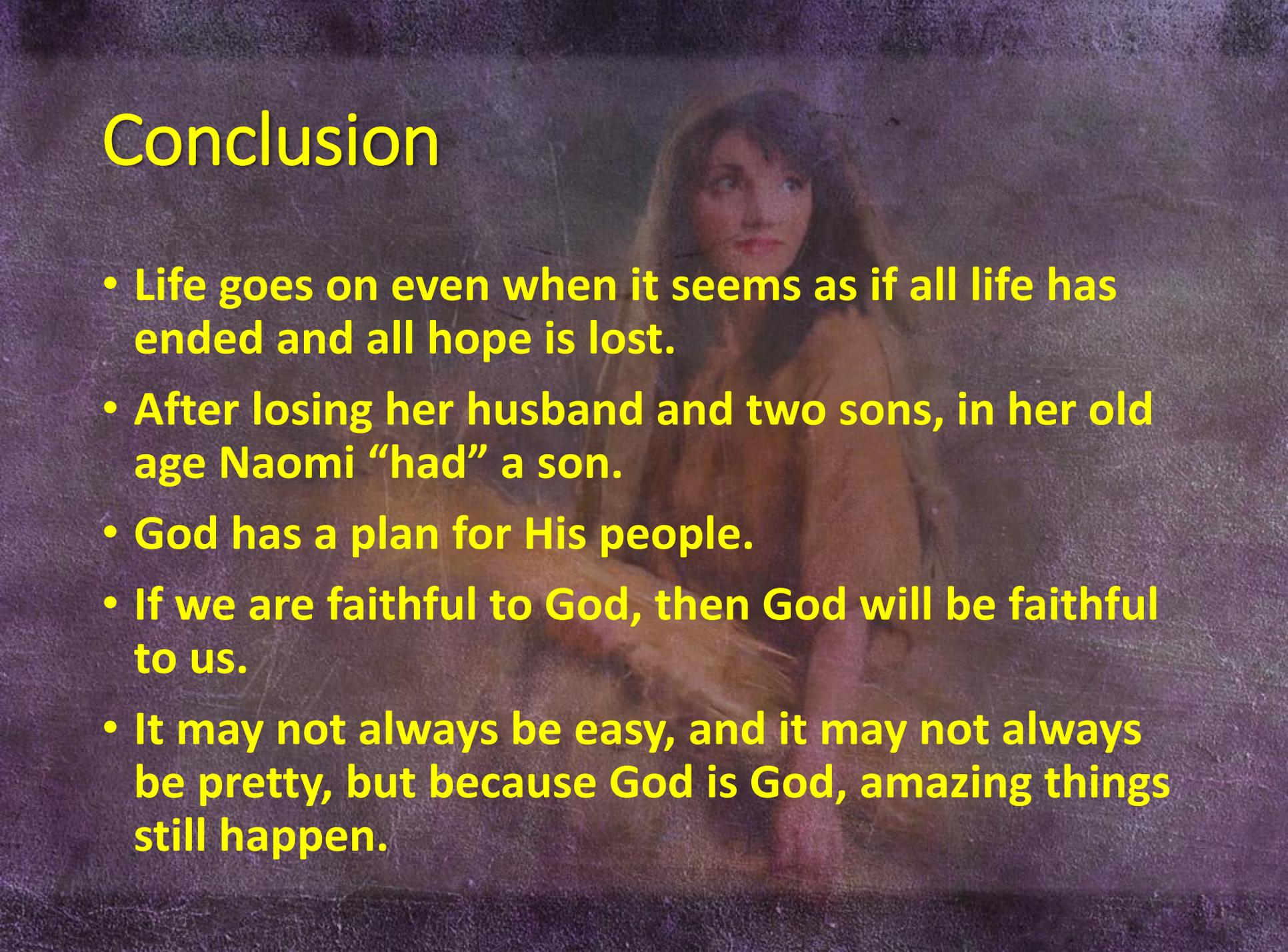
A woman with long, wavy brown hair, wearing a light-colored, long-sleeved tunic, is shown from the waist up. She is looking slightly to her right with a thoughtful expression. She appears to be in a field, as there are some blurred elements in the background that suggest an outdoor setting. The lighting is soft, and the overall tone is somewhat muted.

- Being faithful may mean suffering through trials or being blessed.
- Ruth and Naomi were blessed, because Boaz took notice of Ruth.
- Boaz made special arrangements for Ruth as she gleaned in his fields.
- Learning of Boaz's recognition of Ruth, Naomi's spirit was lifted.
- God can use human scheming to continue His purposes in the world.

Ruth

- Naomi instructed Ruth to uncover Boaz's feet and then lay there.
- Ruth trusted Naomi to not ask her to do anything that was morally wrong.
- Ruth had faith not only in Naomi but in God.
- In reality, Ruth was proposing to Boaz.
- Ruth appealed to Boaz to become her protector, but also desired to be someone to whom he was attracted.
- God was at work making sure everything happened just as He planned.
- After they married, Ruth gave birth to a son, Obed.

Conclusion



- Life goes on even when it seems as if all life has ended and all hope is lost.
- After losing her husband and two sons, in her old age Naomi “had” a son.
- God has a plan for His people.
- If we are faithful to God, then God will be faithful to us.
- It may not always be easy, and it may not always be pretty, but because God is God, amazing things still happen.