



Let God Name You

- What stood out to you from last Sunday's teaching?
- Everyone answer: In the film, "Dances with Wolves" Kevin Costner's character gets renamed "Dances with Wolves" by a Native American tribe that saw that he had befriended a wolf.
 - If you were to rename yourself based on your hobbies or profession like Kevin Costner, what would it be and why?
 - Would you say that your name you gave yourself positively or negatively describes you?
 - If you hadn't said the name you gave yourself out loud, would people around have been able to guess it after knowing you?
 - What are some other characteristics that people might know about you because they are a part of your identity.
- Read Ruth 1
 - What sticks out to you in this passage?
 - What are all the reasons you can find in chapter one that cause Naomi (*pleasant*) to change her name to Mara (*bitter*)?
 - Do you know anyone (not naming names) that maybe can identify with Mara? They identify themselves by all the bad that has happened to them like Eeyore from Winnie the pooh.
 - Why do you think some people are slanted toward identifying with all of the misery in their lives?
- In his teaching, Pastor Dave taught us that living into bitterness is a root that produces negative fruit. What do you think he meant by that?
 - Does anyone know how the rest of Naomi's story goes? Skim through the book (it isn't a long one) and develop a list of what God did for Naomi.
 - Why do you think that it is so hard to recognize the good that God is doing in your life when you get so focused on misery? Wouldn't you think that a miserable person would be looking for something good?
- Spend the rest of your time together listing out and recognizing what God has done for you personally, as a family, and as a church. Then give thanks in prayer together.