

What God Does with Broken Pieces

In a recent blog entitled, *A Broken Cup, a Chewed Puzzle, and Two Lessons I'm Carrying into the New Year*, I referenced how a puzzle came together even though one of its pieces had been chewed into several broken fragments. It didn't look promising at first. The piece was badly damaged. The edges didn't match. Nevertheless, when it was carefully put back in place, the finished picture was still beautiful. The Book of Ruth reads much like this puzzle. Lives were disrupted, broken into pieces. Many educators can relate to the notion of brokenness. Let's look to God's Word for encouragement to see how God does beautiful work with broken pieces.

Read [Ruth 1:3-5](#) and [20-21](#). Naomi experienced brokenness in her life. ***Describe her perspective in these verses.***

*Have you ever experienced loss? Have you ever been uncertain of your future? **What resonates most with you about Naomi's state of mind?***

Naomi believed her story was over, but God had a plan to put her life back together again through her loyal daughter-in-law, Ruth. In order to survive, Ruth took the initiative and did what the Law allowed the poor to do. She went into the fields to glean what others had left behind. It was humble, exhausting work, and it offered no guarantees.

Read [Ruth 2:3-9](#). ***What looks coincidental in this moment but isn't (v. 3)? What was the result?***

At this point, Ruth's life still looked fragmented. She was poor and widowed, but God began to fit the pieces of her life together. ***How did He provide in the midst of her brokenness?***

Time passed. Faithfulness continued. Slowly, over time, the pieces began to come together in ways Ruth and Naomi never could have imagined. Read [Ruth 4:13-15](#). What once looked ruined became part of a story of redemption that would bless generations. ***Does any aspect of your work life feel fragmented right now? How might God be fitting it into a larger picture?***

As educators, there are seasons when our work feels chewed up—by exhaustion, by unmet expectations, by circumstances beyond our control. We may not see immediate relief, but God's plan is rarely rushed. God is intentional. God is purposeful. God is faithful. While God is working out His divine plan in our lives, we will often not see the whole picture. Our job during such times is simply to trust Him. God will put the pieces of our lives together in a beautiful way.

Redeeming God, when our work feels fragmented and our efforts seem small, remind us that You waste nothing. Help us trust that You are fitting every piece—seen and unseen—into Your greater design. Give us faithfulness for today and trust for what we cannot yet see. We place our stories, our classrooms, and our hearts into Your hands. Amen.

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