Moving Forward with Simplicity: Ruth

I truly enjoy this theme for this month on “Moving Forward with Simplicity.” When I think about simplicity, the key word that pops into my head is simplify. Simplify also mean reducing essentials. In math, you can use simplifying to transform an expression or fraction in its lowest terms. As a math teacher, many of my students struggle with the idea of simplifying. Sometimes we do the same in our lives.

I have started to learn how to simplify my life by reading the book of Ruth. Ruth stripped everything away that we, as women, may consider essential in our lives. She left her hometown, the people that she only knew, and followed her mother-in-law into an unknown land for her. She was determined to move forward with Naomi. “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go, I will go, and where you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.” (Ruth 1:16-17). To be able to simplify, you must have a common denominator. Ruth was willing to transform her mindset, heart, and life to follow Naomi. By doing this, she had to learn to trust and have faith in the new path that she is going. Through this process, she was able to gain so much more. The route to simplifying can also mean dividing out what is not needed in our lives. She understood that as she faced her new journey or reality with Naomi. She was the minority and understood her old identity. She may be Ruth the Moabite but through her sacrifice she embraced her new life. Simplifying is not an easy process. It may take multiple tries before you get to the lowest term, but you keep on trying. The product of her sacrifice was to later be written to be a part of the genealogy of Jesus.

Ruth’s willing heart has taught me so much. Her perseverance and determination have encouraged me. There are times in my life where it is easier for me to give up because I feel like I am struggling on my own. I am still learning to pray and ask God, almost daily, please help me have a willing heart. I pray for a heart, mindset, and an openness with his people that pleases him.

In what ways can we truly simplify our lives? What are some things that we need to divide out? God is calling us to have paradigm shift. He wants us to trust in his will and not our own. He is with us so “let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.” (Hebrews 12: 1-2). Ruth set herself apart. She became a willing vessel who was able to move forward with simplicity by simplifying her life.