

Small Group Discussion Guide

Ruth 4:1–12 — From Outsider to Insider

Opening Prayer

Take a moment to invite the Lord to open hearts, build trust, and help your group both receive and live out His Word.

Icebreaker

Share about a time you felt like an outsider in a funny or low-stakes way. What made it awkward?

Read the Passage Together

Read **Ruth 4:1–12** out loud.

Option: Have multiple people read different sections to keep engagement high.

Discussion Questions

1. Understanding the Story

- What stands out to you most in this scene at the city gate?
- Why do you think the closer relative backed out once he understood the full cost?
- What does Boaz's willingness to redeem Ruth reveal about his character?

2. From Outsider to Insider

- In what ways was Ruth clearly an outsider in Bethlehem?
- How did Boaz's redemption change not just her circumstances, but her identity?
- What does it mean that the elders publicly affirmed and blessed her?

Dig Deeper:

How does Ruth's story reflect what Christ has done for us?

(You can reference Ephesians 2:13–19 if helpful.)

3. “You Belong Here”

- Why is belonging such a deep human need?
- Have you ever struggled to believe you truly belong in God's family? What made that hard?
- What lies tend to creep in that make us feel like spiritual outsiders?

Reflection:

What would change in your life if you truly believed you belong?

4. Belonging People Create Belonging

- What does it practically look like to “stand at the gate” like Boaz?
- Who are the “Ruths” in our world today?
- Where might we unintentionally create outsiders instead of welcoming them?

Personal Application:

Is there someone in your life right now who might feel like an outsider?

Action Step

Ask each person:

What is one intentional step you can take this week to create belonging for someone else?

Examples:

- Invite someone to coffee.
- Sit with someone new at church.
- Reach out to someone who seems isolated.

- Invite someone into your home.
- Introduce two people who don't know each other.

Encourage accountability by asking members to follow up next week.

Closing Reflection

Read aloud:

“You are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.” — Ephesians 2:19

Let that sit for a moment.

Then ask:

- What does it mean to you personally to be part of the household of God?

Closing Prayer

Pray for:

- Those who still feel like outsiders
- Courage to live as “belonging people”
- A heart that reflects the Redeemer