

MESSAGE NOTES

Ruth 3

1. Singleness is Honorable
2. Courtship is Evaluation/Preparation
3. Marriage is a Picture

LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Last week in the Respond/Reinforce part of the Study Guide we asked you to, *“Be intentional this week to look for the ways God is providing for you and/or the opportunities He gives you to provide for someone else in need. Next time your Life Group meets share about these experiences and how you saw God through them.”* Take a moment before you start your group to connect about this. Share your experiences.

Reference:

Open in prayer and read Ruth 3:1-13.

Review: What was one thing from this weekend’s message that challenged, confused, or stood out to you?

Reflect:

1. This chapter shows us how God works through the common circumstances and customs of life. Where do you see God’s guiding hand in the everyday events of your life, especially as it relates to relationships, whether you are married, single, dating, engaged, etc?

2. American culture has changed from the days when it was assumed men would always be the initiators in a dating relationship. Do you think this has been a good change? Why or why not?

3. When Ruth went to the threshing floor, she was risking humiliation if Boaz sent her away. When was the last time you risked your reputation to do the right thing?

4. What do you think about the idea that, when it comes to relationships and marriage, there is "one perfect man/woman" for everyone?

5. In the Jewish scriptures (the "Tanakh"), Ruth follows the Book of Proverbs, which ends with a representation of a godly woman. Many believe the Book of Ruth was to illustrate how Ruth embodies the women described in chapter 31 of Proverbs. Read through that description. Do you see characteristics of Ruth that match up with Proverbs 31?

6. What do you consider to be the key traits of a person of high character?

7. Ruth and Naomi's story goes from despair in the first portion of the book to one of opportunity and hope. Share about a time when you saw God take difficult circumstances from your life and turn them into something hopeful?

Respond/Reinforce:

Take a moment this week to reflect and meditate on the truths of God's love and provision in this story. Consider some specific ways you could trust God more in singleness, romance, or marriage based on these truths.