



5 WEEKS


T H E B O O K O F

RUTH





We often define our lives by the big moments, but most of our lives consist of ordinary chapters. They may not feel significant, but these ordinary moments end up changing everything. As we work our way through the book of Ruth, we will discover the hidden beauty of life's small moments.



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TABLE OF CONTENTS



WEEK 1

When It's Time to Walk Away	4
-----------------------------------	---

WEEK 2

Finding the Love You Want	6
---------------------------------	---

WEEK 3

4 Signs You Might Have a Keeper.....	9
--------------------------------------	---

WEEK 4

Time to Define the Relationship	12
---------------------------------------	----

WEEK 5

Choosing Your Next Chapter	15
----------------------------------	----

Top 10 Tips for Leading a Small Group.....	18
--	----

Group Agreement	19
-----------------------	----

When It's Time to Walk Away

SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking It Off:

What's your favorite movie genre and why?

Read:

This week, we are covering Ruth 1. Read Ruth chapter 1 together as a small group.

Big Idea:

To get to the right place, you have to leave the wrong one.

Key Scriptures:

Ruth 1:1-5

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. So, a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. The man's name was Elimelek, his wife's name was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to Moab and lived there. Now Elimelek,

Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband.

Judges 21:25 NLT

In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes.

Ruth 1:16

But Ruth replied, "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."

Discussion:

1. Which part of the message was the most impactful for you and why? Is there anything you want to learn more about?
2. What does it look like to trust God? What makes it easier or more difficult to trust Him?

3. Read Judges 21:25. What are some dangers that come with doing what is “right in [our] own eyes”? How can you practice looking to God for wisdom?
4. When times get tough, it can be tempting to question God and take control of our situations. Share about a time when you were tempted to control your situation without God. What was the outcome, and what did you learn?

Group Prayer:

Father, thank You for showing Your goodness and faithfulness in the story of Ruth. We believe You're good and faithful in our lives, too. Please show us if we need to change the trajectory of some aspect of our lives and help us move in that direction. Help us to trust and obey Your will. In Jesus' name, amen.

This Week:

What one decision or action do you need to take to change the trajectory of your life and legacy? Find one way to take a step in the right direction this week.

Prayer Focus:

Pray for the people that attended our small groups launch. Pray that they would find a community of believers to walk through life with.

Memory Verse:

But Ruth replied, “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.”
Ruth 1:16

NOTES:



Finding the Love You Want

SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking It Off:

Share one small way you saw God at work in your life this week.

Read:

This week, we are in Ruth 2.
Read Ruth 2:1-14 together as a small group.

Big Idea:

When you turn away from something that is not good, you will find the blessing of God in another place.

Key Scriptures:

Ruth 1:16

"... Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God."

Ruth 2:1-14

Now Naomi had a relative on her husband's side, a man of standing from the clan of Elimelek, whose name was

Boaz. And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favor." Naomi said to her, "Go ahead, my daughter." So she went out, entered a field and began to glean behind the harvesters. As it turned out, she was working in a field belonging to Boaz, who was from the clan of Elimelek. Just then Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and greeted the harvesters, "The Lord be with you!" "The Lord bless you!" they answered. Boaz asked the overseer of his harvesters, "Who does that young woman belong to?" The overseer replied, "She is the Moabite who came back from Moab with Naomi. She said, 'Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves behind the harvesters.' She came into the field and has remained here from morning till now, except for a short rest in the shelter." So Boaz said to Ruth, "My daughter, listen to me. Don't go

and glean in another field and don't go away from here. Stay here with the women who work for me. Watch the field where the men are harvesting, and follow along after the women. I have told the men not to lay a hand on you. And whenever you are thirsty, go and get a drink from the water jars the men have filled." At this, she bowed down with her face to the ground. She asked him, "Why have I found such favor in your eyes that you notice me—a foreigner?" Boaz replied, "I've been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband—how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with a people you did not know before. May the Lord repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge." "May I continue to find favor in your eyes, my lord," she said. "You have put me at ease by speaking kindly to your servant—though I do not have the standing of one of your servants." At mealtime Boaz said to her, "Come over here. Have some bread and dip it in the wine vinegar." When she sat

down with the harvesters, he offered her some roasted grain. She ate all she wanted and had some left over.

Discussion:

1. Read Ruth 2:1-3. What stands out to you in this passage? What qualities do you see in Ruth?
2. What quality or characteristic is God calling you to develop? How can you work on developing that trait?
3. Sometimes God uses natural circumstances to bring about His supernatural plan. Share about a time when you saw the providence of God in your own life. What did you learn through that experience?
4. Is there an area in your life where you're ready to move to the next chapter? Talk about this with your group.

Group Prayer:

Father, thank You for caring so deeply for us. We want to honor You with our whole lives, so help us turn away from anything that's preventing us from being close to You. Please develop our character and help us look more like You. Help us to see all the ways You're moving in our lives today. In Jesus' name, amen.

This Week:

Intentionally look for ways that God is at work in your life this week. Share what you notice with your group the next time you meet.

Prayer Focus:

Pray for the United College Ministry. Pray that the students in this area would have a passion for sharing Jesus on their campuses.

Memory Verse:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23

NOTES:



4 Signs You Might Have a Keeper

SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking It Off:

What's the best piece of relationship advice that you have received?

Read:

This week, we are in Ruth 2. Read Ruth 2:10-20 together as a small group.

Big Idea:

You don't just attract who you want, you tend to attract who you are.

Key Scriptures:

Ruth 2:10-11

At this, she bowed down with her face to the ground. She asked him, "Why have I found such favor in your eyes that you notice me—a foreigner?" Boaz replied, "I've been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband—how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came

to live with a people you did not know before."

Ruth 2:14-17

At mealtime Boaz said to her, "Come over here. Have some bread and dip it in the wine vinegar." When she sat down with the harvesters, he offered her some roasted grain. She ate all she wanted and had some left over. As she got up to glean, Boaz gave orders to his men, "Let her gather among the sheaves and don't reprimand her. Even pull out some stalks for her from the bundles and leave them for her to pick up, and don't rebuke her." So Ruth gleaned in the field until evening. Then she threshed the barley she had gathered, and it amounted to about an ephah.

Ruth 2:19-20

Her mother-in-law asked her, "Where did you glean today? Where did you work? Blessed be the man who took notice of you!" Then Ruth told her mother-in-law about the one at whose place she had been

working. "The name of the man I worked with today is Boaz," she said. "The LORD bless him!" Naomi said to her daughter-in-law. "He has not stopped showing his kindness to the living and the dead." She added, "That man is our close relative; he is one of our guardian-redeemers."

4 Signs You Might Have a Keeper:

1. Seeking character
2. Exploring connection
3. Showing consideration
4. Receiving confirmation

Discussion:

1. Read Ruth 2:10-11. Boaz noticed Ruth's character. What qualities do you think someone would see in you?
2. Who are some trustworthy people in your life? How do they influence the way you act and live?
3. Review the four signs you might have a keeper. Talk about the sign that stood out to you the most. What made it noteworthy or important to you?
4. Is there anything you need to change in your friendships or relationships to honor God better? Share about this change and talk with your

group about ways they can support and encourage you.

Group Prayer:

Father, You know us better than anyone else. We want to honor You in every area of our lives, including our relationships. Please guide us and show us where we can make changes to better reflect who You are. Thank You for redeeming us and calling us Yours. In Jesus' name, amen.

This Week:

Find one way to invest in a friendship or your relationship this week.

Prayer Focus:

Pray for the elders and leadership of Sunnybrook Community Church as the begin planning for the upcoming capital campaign.

Memory Verse:

Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Romans 12:10

NOTES:



Time to Define the Relationship

SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking It Off:

Share something great that happened this week.

Read:

This week, we are covering Ruth 3. Read Ruth 3:1-14 together as a small group.

Big Idea:

Even if you don't get it right, God will make it right.

Key Scriptures:

Ruth 3:1-9

One day Ruth's mother-in-law Naomi said to her, "My daughter, I must find a home for you, where you will be well provided for. Now Boaz ... is a relative of ours. Tonight he will be winnowing barley on the threshing floor. Wash, put on perfume, and get dressed in your best clothes. Then go down to the threshing floor, but don't let him know you are there until he has finished

eating and drinking. When he lies down, note the place where he is lying. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down. He will tell you what to do." "I will do whatever you say," Ruth answered. So she went down to the threshing floor and did everything her mother-in-law told her to do. When Boaz had finished eating and drinking and was in good spirits, he went over to lie down at the far end of the grain pile. Ruth approached quietly, uncovered his feet and lay down. In the middle of the night something startled the man; he turned—and there was a woman lying at his feet! "Who are you?" he asked. "I am your servant Ruth," she said. "Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a guardian-redeemer of our family."

Song of Songs 8:4 NLT
Promise me, O women of Jerusalem, not to awaken love until the time is right.

Ruth 3:11-13

"And now, my daughter, don't be afraid. I will do for you all you ask. All the people of my town know that you are a woman of noble character. Although it is true that I am a guardian-redeemer of our family, there is another who is more closely related than I. Stay here for the night, and in the morning if he wants to do his duty as your guardian-redeemer, good; let him redeem you. But if he is not willing, as surely as the LORD lives I will do it..."

Discussion:

1. Read Ruth 3:1-9. What stands out to you in this passage? What do you think empowered Ruth to take this kind of initiative?
2. What qualities or habits do you see in Ruth and Boaz as they're honoring God with their lives? Do you know someone with similar qualities?
3. As we navigate different seasons of life, we won't always get it right. Share about a time when you didn't make the best choice, but God still made it right. What did you learn about Him through that experience?
4. Sometimes God wants us

to go after what we want. Is He calling you to take a step of faith and go after something? Talk about it with your group.

Group Prayer:

Father, thank You for giving us Your Word to help us better understand how we can honor You. Please give us wisdom and discernment as we navigate relationships. We know that we won't always get it right, but we trust that You use all things for our good. Help us to honor You well. In Jesus' name, amen.

This Week:

Think about your daily habits and routines. Find one new way to honor God in your daily life and share about it with your small group.

Prayer Focus:

Pray for the JOY ministry (Just Older Youth). Pray that they would form lasting connections and community.

Memory Verse:

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

NOTES:



Choosing Your Next Chapter

SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking It Off:

Where did you see God moving in your life this week?

Read:

This week, we are covering Ruth 4. Read Ruth chapter 4 together as a small group.

Big Idea:

The decisions that you make today will determine the story that you tell tomorrow.

Key Scriptures:

Ruth 4:1 NLT

Boaz went to the town gate and took a seat there. Just then the family redeemer he had mentioned came by, so Boaz called out to him, "Come over here and sit down, friend. I want to talk to you."

Ruth 4:4-6 NLT

"... If you want the land, then buy it here in the presence of these witnesses. But if you

don't want it, let me know right away, because I am next in line to redeem it after you." The man replied, "All right, I'll redeem it." Then Boaz told him, "Of course, your purchase of the land from Naomi also requires that you marry Ruth, the Moabite widow. That way she can have children who will carry on her husband's name and keep the land in the family." "Then I can't redeem it," the family redeemer replied, "because this might endanger my own estate. You redeem the land; I cannot do it."

Proverbs 21:5 NLT

Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty.

Discussion:

1. If you had to name the current "chapter" of life you're in, what would you name it? What would you name the next "chapter" you're planning for?
2. Read Proverbs 21:5. Think about what you want your

life to look like a year from now. What plans do you need to put in place to make that happen?

3. Consider a pivotal moment or experience in your life. Talk about how your life would look different if you hadn't had that experience. How can you see the providence of God as you look back on that time?
4. What do faith-filled prayers look like to you? What prayers are you waiting for God to answer? Share these with your group and spend time prayer together.

Group Prayer:

Father, thank You for being the perfect Author of our lives. We know You're moving in our lives, even when we don't see or understand. Please show us where You're calling us to make a plan and give us the faith to pray bold prayers. We believe You are working in all things. In Jesus' name, amen.

This Week:

Spend time each day praying for the different prayer requests your group shared.

Prayer Focus:

Pray for our Revive Counseling ministry. Pray that God would continue to provide lay counselors to meet the needs of the people at Sunnybrook.

Memory Verse:

Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty.

Proverbs 21:5 NLT

NOTES:



Top 10 Tips for Leading a Small Group

1. Establish a welcoming, accepting, and safe environment.
 - Take time to prepare.
 - Make sure to give a warm enthusiastic greeting to each person.
 - Verbally communicate the environment that you hope to create.
2. On the opening night of your group you need to have some intentional discussions centered around these questions:
 - What is the purpose of our group?
 - What is the vision for our group?
 - What are your expectations?
 - What do you hope to gain from this group experience?
 - What are some things we value as a group?
 - What are some healthy guidelines we need to have in place?

Review and sign a group agreement.
3. Be authentic. Spend time sharing your life stories in order to get to know each other on a deeper level.
4. Find a good balance between:
 - Truth and grace/Bible study and life
 - Encouraging and challenging one another
 - Giving and receiving feedback from each other
5. Ask good questions to stimulate good discussion. Use open ended questions and follow up questions.
6. Hang out together, do things socially, eat together and have fun together!
7. Develop a missional lifestyle, find a service project to do together in the community.
8. Raise up new leadership by rotating facilitation of the group.
9. Share the responsibilities in order to increase individual commitment and ownership of the group.
10. Pray for your group and for each other!

Find ways to celebrate what God is doing in your group! Who else could you invite to join you in order that their life may be impacted by what God is doing in your group?

Group Agreement

OUR PURPOSE

To transform our spiritual lives by cultivating our spiritual health in a healthy small group community. In addition, we: _____

OUR VALUES

Group Attendance: To give priority to the group meeting. We will call or email if we will be late or absent.

Safe Environment: To help create a safe place where people can be heard and feel loved. (Please, no quick answers, snap judgments, or simple fixes.)

Respect Differences: To be gentle and gracious to people with different spiritual maturity, personal opinions, temperaments, or imperfections. We are all works in progress.

Confidentiality: To keep anything that is shared strictly confidential and within the group, and to avoid sharing improper information about those outside the group.

Encouragement for Growth: To be not just takers but givers of life. We want to spiritually multiply our life by serving others with our God-given gifts.

Welcome for Newcomers: To keep an open chair and share Jesus' dream of finding a shepherd for every sheep.

Shared Ownership: To remember that every member is a minister and to ensure that each attender will share a small team role or responsibility over time.

Rotating Hosts/Leaders and Homes: To encourage different people to host the group in their homes, and to rotate the responsibility of facilitating each meeting.

OUR EXPECTATIONS

- Refreshments/mealtimes _____
- Childcare _____
- When we will meet (day of week) _____
- Where we will meet (place) _____
- We will begin at (time) _____ and end at _____
- We will do our best to have some or all of us attend a worship service together.
- Our primary worship service time will be _____
- Date of this agreement _____
- Date we will review this agreement again _____
- Who (other than the leader) will review this agreement at the end of this study _____



SUNNYBROOK
community church

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