

# WELCOME TO EAGLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH



We are glad you have joined us today to worship. We want you to know that we have prayerfully planned this time together and that we do "church" on purpose.

Our mission is to *reach* people with the gospel message of Jesus Christ, *teach* people to become devoted disciples of His, *equip* people for acts of service, and *send* them into ministry.

As you join us today, we ask that you, also be intentional in your worship of God and purposefully focus on your relationship with Him.  
God Bless you as we follow Him together.

**Dr. Steven A. Crane**

## GROUP QUESTIONS

**Opening:** Have you ever had to cross over to another ethnic or cultural group?  
Were you able to assimilate, or did you remain a stranger?

### **Read Ruth 1:1-5**

1. Why did Elimelech move his family from Bethlehem to Moab?  
What do you think would be the pros and cons of this move?  
(Read Genesis 19:30-38; Numbers 25:1-3 and Deuteronomy 23:2-4)
2. What happened while they were living in Moab?  
Without husbands or sons, what is Naomi facing?  
How hard would it have been for Naomi to have hope at this time?
3. Have you ever experienced a time when you felt hopeless?  
How did you make it through? Did you have to make difficult decisions?

### **Read Ruth 1:6-13; 19-22**

4. How open is Naomi about her situation and God's role in it? (Vss. 13, 20-21)  
Is it okay to be real with God in the midst of bitter situations?
5. Are you able to be honest and transparent with God? Why or why not?

### **Read Ruth 1:14-18**

6. What do you learn about Ruth's character from these verses?
7. What is the value of loyalty and commitment in human relationships?
8. Who in your life is like Ruth, showing loyalty to you in spite of difficult circumstances?  
How can you be like Ruth to someone else in their struggles?

### **MEMORY VERSE:**

**Ruth 1:16 ESV**

"For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God."

## The Story Before Christmas

### Hope of Hope

Ruth 1:1-22

1. Elimelech: Making a Questionable \_\_\_\_\_  
Ruth 1:1-5

2. Naomi: A Bitter \_\_\_\_\_  
Ruth 1:6-13, 19-22

3. Ruth: A Growing \_\_\_\_\_

Application:

### **Next Steps:**

- I am thankful that God is faithful even when we are not.
  - Like Elimelech—I have been making decisions on my own without consulting God. I will seek his guidance and direction.
  - Like Naomi—I am nearing the end of my rope. I will trust in God to hold on to the other end while I make my way home.
  - Like Ruth—I will seek ways to be a faithful encourager of others.
- \_\_\_\_\_