



**TALK IT**  
**OVER**  
GROUP GUIDE  
20170625

**WELCOME                      LOVE PEOPLE EXTRAVAGANTLY**

Let's make everyone feel welcome, especially the new faces in the group.  
Ask people to share testimonies of what God has done over the last few weeks.

NEWS REMINDERS:

- **EQUIP BIBLICAL TRAINING: ISRAEL – PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE:** this Wed the 28<sup>th</sup> of June from 18:30 - 20:30 in the main auditorium with Daan & Gaby
  - **HOLIDAY CLUB:** on Tues 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> July from 8:30-12, ages 6-13, registration upon arrival
  - **ONE-TO-ONE NEW BELIEVERS COURSE:** on Sun the 9<sup>th</sup> of July at 4pm with Mandilakhe
  - **NEW PRECEPT BIBLE STUDY: Daniel Part 1** from the 24<sup>th</sup> of July with Julia Goss in the evening, and **Judges** from the 27<sup>th</sup> of July with Mornay Fletcher in the morning
- See [www.harvest.co.za](http://www.harvest.co.za) or the the Harvest App or for more details

**WORSHIP                      LOVE GOD EXTRAVAGANTLY**

**SING** Encourage members to really lay aside the business of the past week, and focus on connecting with God, and what He wants to do in our lives tonight.

**WORD                              IMPART A VICTORIOUS LIFESTYLE**

**The Ups and Downs of Life:**

All of us, if given the chance to tell the story of our lives, would probably tell a story of a life without any downs in it. We would likely highlight all the positive milestones of our past as depictive of our journey.

The reality is however, as was the case for Ruth, that so many times when all seems to be going so well, then the wheels seem to suddenly fall off, and we find ourselves at a real low point in our lives.

Is this normal?

And is it to say that God is not working in our lives when we are at a low point?

## Never ever walk alone:

### 1. Read Ruth 1: 1-20 and discuss:

We see the beginning of the story unfold with both Naomi and Ruth being affected by the deaths in the family at the same time, then deciding to move back to Bethlehem.

- Why do you think they moved?
- What caused Ruth to go with Naomi?

### 2. Let's track the journey of Naomi:

From a land of famine they move to Moab, a terrible place > her husband then dies > then her two sons die > she goes back to her homeland as the drought has ceased, as a bitter old lady > her daughter-in-law gets a chance at love > but the romance goes quiet for almost two months > Boaz then says he will marry Ruth > but then sees that he actually can't > finally they are able to be married > and she has a grandchild.

### 3. Let's track the journey of Ruth:

She is born in a terrible land > but gets married into a very respected foreign family > her father-in-law dies > then her brother-in-law dies > and then her husband dies > she decides to join her mother-in-law returning back to Bethlehem > they have no food > she starts to fall in love with a local man who says he will marry her > but then says he can't > but then straightens it out and they get married > and have a baby boy > who later becomes the grandfather of King David.

### 4. Read Romans 8: 28 and discuss:

This verse speaks to us that it's even through the hard times that God is at work in and through us. And He can turn around any hard time for our good.

### 5. Read Romans 8: 17-18 and discuss:

- See how these are the verses preceding vs 28 of Romans 8 ..
- Sometimes we need to just wait and see that God will be glorified through the situations we find ourselves in ..

### 6. Read Romans 8: 35 and discuss:

It's interesting how he asks what will separate us from the love of God? Then goes on to say no! None of these hard things we go through mean we are separated from Christ!

### 7. Read John 16: 33 and discuss:

This verse helps us put things into perspective: We just see the struggles, but God sees the end already > that you will make it > and that He is with you every step of the way!

Life for all of us has had the highs and the lows. And it's often the lows where we learn and grow the most. Isn't that funny? I'm sure none of us would want to walk through some of our low moments over again. And yet how often have we not seen in our own lives and in the lives of those around us, that these were the very times that prepared and strengthened us the most!

**WORKS:** BE A RESOURCE AND TOUCH THE World

**PRAY:** Let's pray for special needs of anyone in the group.