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ECHO CHAMBER
VOL. 01

LOVE

LIVING PROOF WITHIN

*By this everyone will know that you are my
disciples, if you love one another – John 13:35*





Seventh-day Adventist® Church
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Prepared by Youth & Young Adult Ministries

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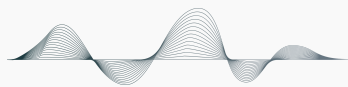
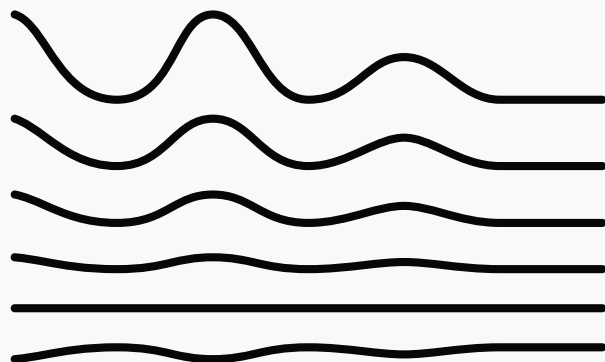
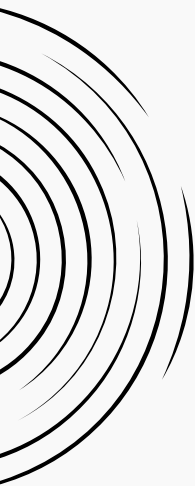


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INTRODUCTION



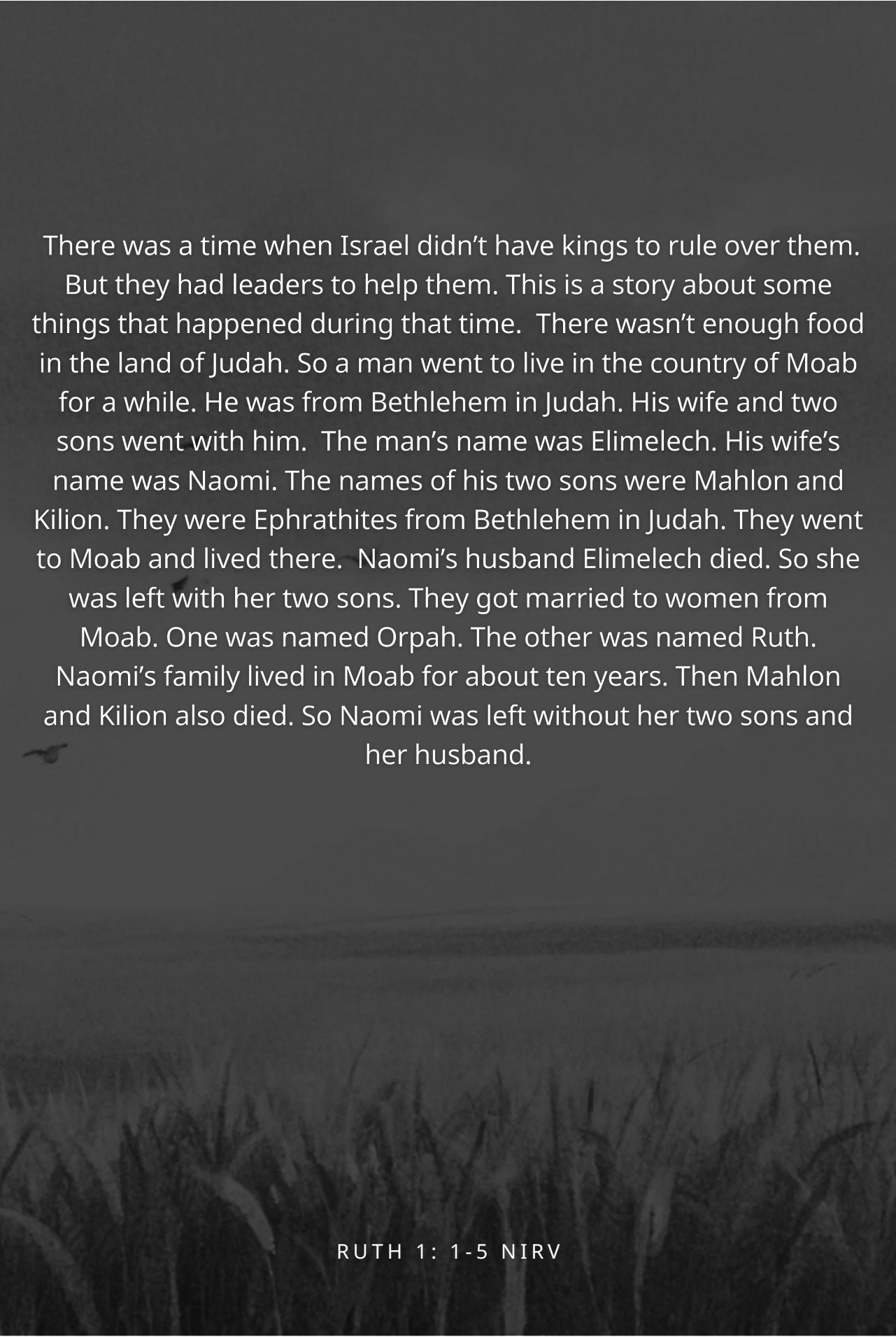
Ever wondered how a story from way back when could still speak to us today? Well, get ready, because the book of **Ruth** isn't just an old tale—it's a journey, a discovery, and a roadmap to meeting Jesus in the most unexpected places. This isn't just about reading words on a page; it's about finding ourselves in Ruth's shoes, making bold choices, falling deeply in love, and leaving a legacy that echoes through eternity.

This study, "Love: Living Proof within," isn't your typical Bible study. It's a 10-part adventure crafted with you—our awesome youth and young adults (ages 13-35)—in mind. We're not aiming for just head knowledge, but for heart transformation.

Our core desire is that, just like Ruth, you'll encounter Jesus in a real, tangible way. That you may fall in love with Jesus even as Ruth fell in love, and that Jesus will be produced because of your decisions even as Jesus was produced out of the line of Ruth's family.

Juan, Andrew, Hannah

Florida Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
Youth and Young Adult Ministries



There was a time when Israel didn't have kings to rule over them. But they had leaders to help them. This is a story about some things that happened during that time. There wasn't enough food in the land of Judah. So a man went to live in the country of Moab for a while. He was from Bethlehem in Judah. His wife and two sons went with him. The man's name was Elimelech. His wife's name was Naomi. The names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went to Moab and lived there. Naomi's husband Elimelech died. So she was left with her two sons. They got married to women from Moab. One was named Orpah. The other was named Ruth. Naomi's family lived in Moab for about ten years. Then Mahlon and Kilion also died. So Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband.

RUTH 1: 1-5 NIRV

1. LOSS & LOYALTY

PASSAGE:

Ruth 1: 1-5

THEME:

God's presence in times of loss.

KEY VERSE:

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."

INTRODUCTION:

The book of Ruth is set during the era of the Judges, a period marked by instability and moral decay in Israel. The story begins with a severe famine in Bethlehem, a sign of potential spiritual disconnect, which forces Elimelech, Naomi, and their sons to seek refuge in Moab. This decision underscores their search for survival but also exposes them to a foreign culture with different religious practices.

Moab, associated with the worship of Chemosh, presented spiritual challenges for the Israelite family. While in Moab, Elimelech and his two sons died, leaving Naomi and her two daughters-in-law widows without their husbands in a foreign land.

ENGAGE WITH SCRIPTURE

Read Ruth 1:1-5 aloud. Ask group members to identify the losses that Naomi experiences.

DISCUSSION:

- How does Naomi's initial response reflect her understanding of God's role in her life?
- What does this passage teach us about the importance of family and community during times of grief?
- How can we find God even in the midst of painful experiences?

APPLICATION:

- Encourage group members to reflect on a time when they experienced loss. How did they see God working in that situation? How can they support others who are grieving?
- Closing Activity Options: **Prayer Circle**: Pray for those experiencing loss, asking for God's comfort and guidance.
- Affirmation: Share words of encouragement and support with each other.

While Naomi was in Moab, she heard that the Lord had helped his people. He had begun to provide food for them again. So Naomi and her daughters-in-law prepared to go from Moab back to her home. She left the place where she had been living. Her two daughters-in-law went with her. They started out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah. Naomi spoke to her two daughters-in-law. "Both of you go back," she said. "Each of you go to your own mother's home. You were kind to your husbands, who have died. You have also been kind to me. So may the Lord be just as kind to you. May he help each of you find a secure place in the home of another husband. May he give you peace and rest." Then she kissed them good-bye. They broke down and sobbed loudly. They said to her, "We'll go back to your people with you." But Naomi said, "Go home, my daughters. Why would you want to come with me? Am I going to have any more sons who could become your husbands? "Go home, my daughters. I'm too old to have another husband. Suppose I thought there was still some hope for me. Suppose I got married to a man tonight. And later I had sons by him. Would you wait until they grew up? Would you stay single until you could get married to them? No, my daughters. My life is more bitter than yours. The Lord's powerful hand has been against me!" When they heard that, they broke down and sobbed again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye. But Ruth held on to her.

2. CHOOSING YOUR PATH

PASSAGE:

Ruth 1: 6-14

THEME:

Discerning God's leading in major life decisions.

KEY VERSE:

Proverbs 3:5-6 - "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

INTRODUCTION:

Recap and Transition: Begin by briefly recapping the previous session (Ruth 1:1-5) which focused on loss and loyalty. Remind the group that Naomi and her family faced significant losses, leading them to Moab. This sets the stage for Naomi's decision to return to Bethlehem, which is the focus of this session.

Introduce the Theme: Highlight that Part 2 explores how we discern God's leading when facing major life decisions. Acknowledge that making such decisions can be challenging, and many factors influence our choices.

Setting the Context: Explain that Naomi hears that the famine in Bethlehem has ended, prompting her decision to return. She encourages her daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth, to return to their families in Moab.

ENGAGE WITH SCRIPTURE

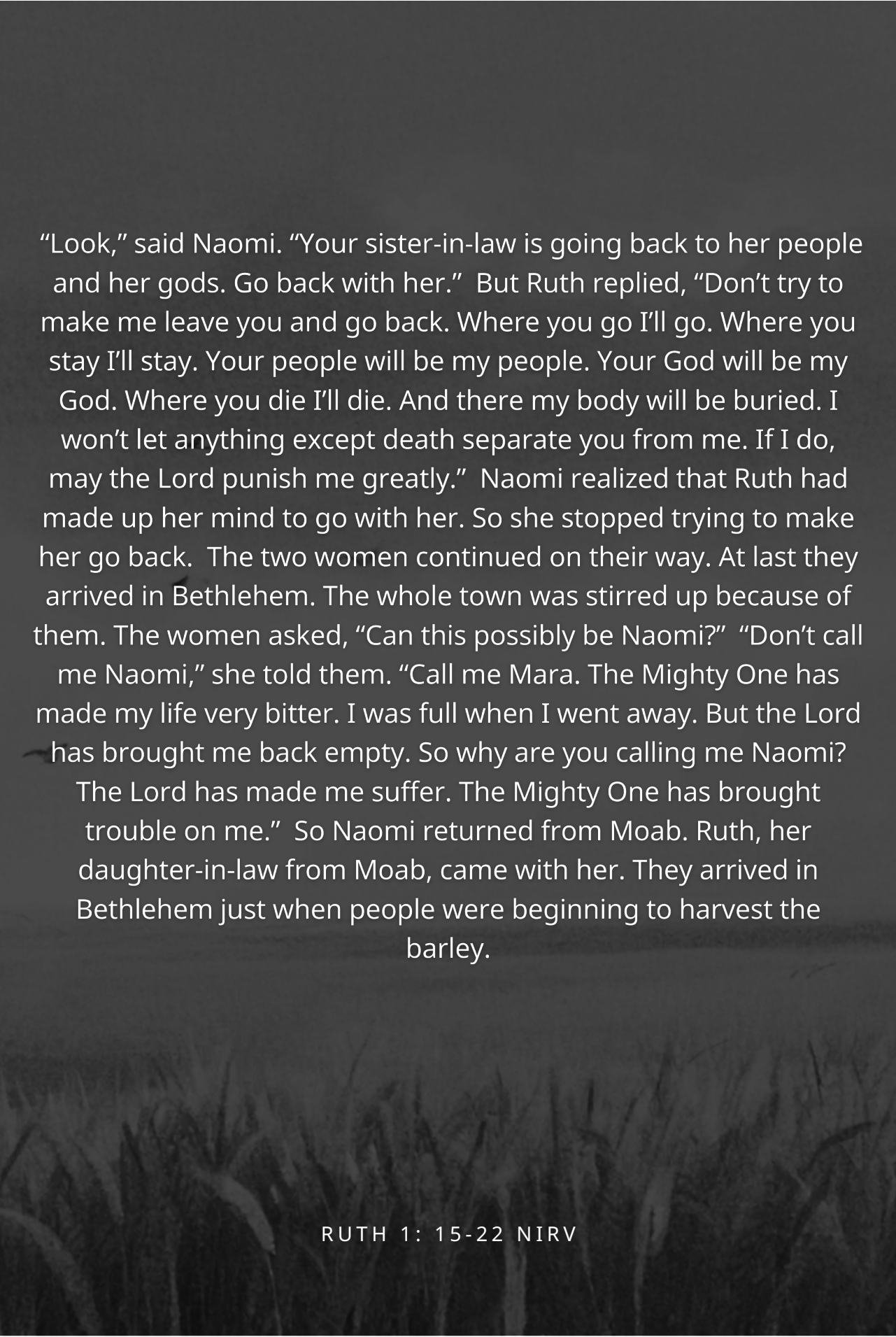
Read Ruth 1:6-14. Focus on Naomi's reasoning and Orpah and Ruth's choices.

DISCUSSION:

- Why does Naomi urge her daughters-in-law to stay in Moab?
- What motivates Ruth to stay with Naomi?
- How can we discern God's will when faced with difficult choices?

APPLICATION:

- Invite group members to consider a major decision they are currently facing. What steps can they take to seek God's guidance?
- Closing Activity Options: **Decision Mapping** - Create a visual map outlining the pros and cons of a current decision, seeking to identify God's leading.
- Share & Pray: Break into pairs for group members to share about what they are going through, then lift each other up in prayer.



“Look,” said Naomi. “Your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her.” But Ruth replied, “Don’t try to make me leave you and go back. Where you go I’ll go. Where you stay I’ll stay. Your people will be my people. Your God will be my God. Where you die I’ll die. And there my body will be buried. I won’t let anything except death separate you from me. If I do, may the Lord punish me greatly.” Naomi realized that Ruth had made up her mind to go with her. So she stopped trying to make her go back. The two women continued on their way. At last they arrived in Bethlehem. The whole town was stirred up because of them. The women asked, “Can this possibly be Naomi?” “Don’t call me Naomi,” she told them. “Call me Mara. The Mighty One has made my life very bitter. I was full when I went away. But the Lord has brought me back empty. So why are you calling me Naomi? The Lord has made me suffer. The Mighty One has brought trouble on me.” So Naomi returned from Moab. Ruth, her daughter-in-law from Moab, came with her. They arrived in Bethlehem just when people were beginning to harvest the barley.

RUTH 1: 15-22 NIRV

3. COMMITMENT & COVENANT

PASSAGE:

Ruth 1: 15-22

THEME:

Understanding covenant relationships and God's faithfulness.

KEY VERSE:

Ruth 1:16-17 - "Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me."

INTRODUCTION:

Recap and Transition: Start by briefly recapping Part 2 (Ruth 1:6-14), where Naomi decided to return to Bethlehem, and Ruth made the courageous decision to stay with her. Emphasize Ruth's commitment as a bridge to this session's focus on covenant relationships.

Introduce the Theme: Start by briefly recapping Part 2 (Ruth 1:6-14), where Naomi decided to return to Bethlehem, and Ruth made the courageous decision to stay with her. Emphasize Ruth's commitment as a bridge to this session's focus on covenant relationships.

Setting the Context: Explain that Ruth's decision to leave her homeland and follow Naomi to Bethlehem exemplifies a life-changing commitment. Discuss the implications of leaving family, culture, and familiar gods to embrace a new life.

ENGAGE WITH SCRIPTURE

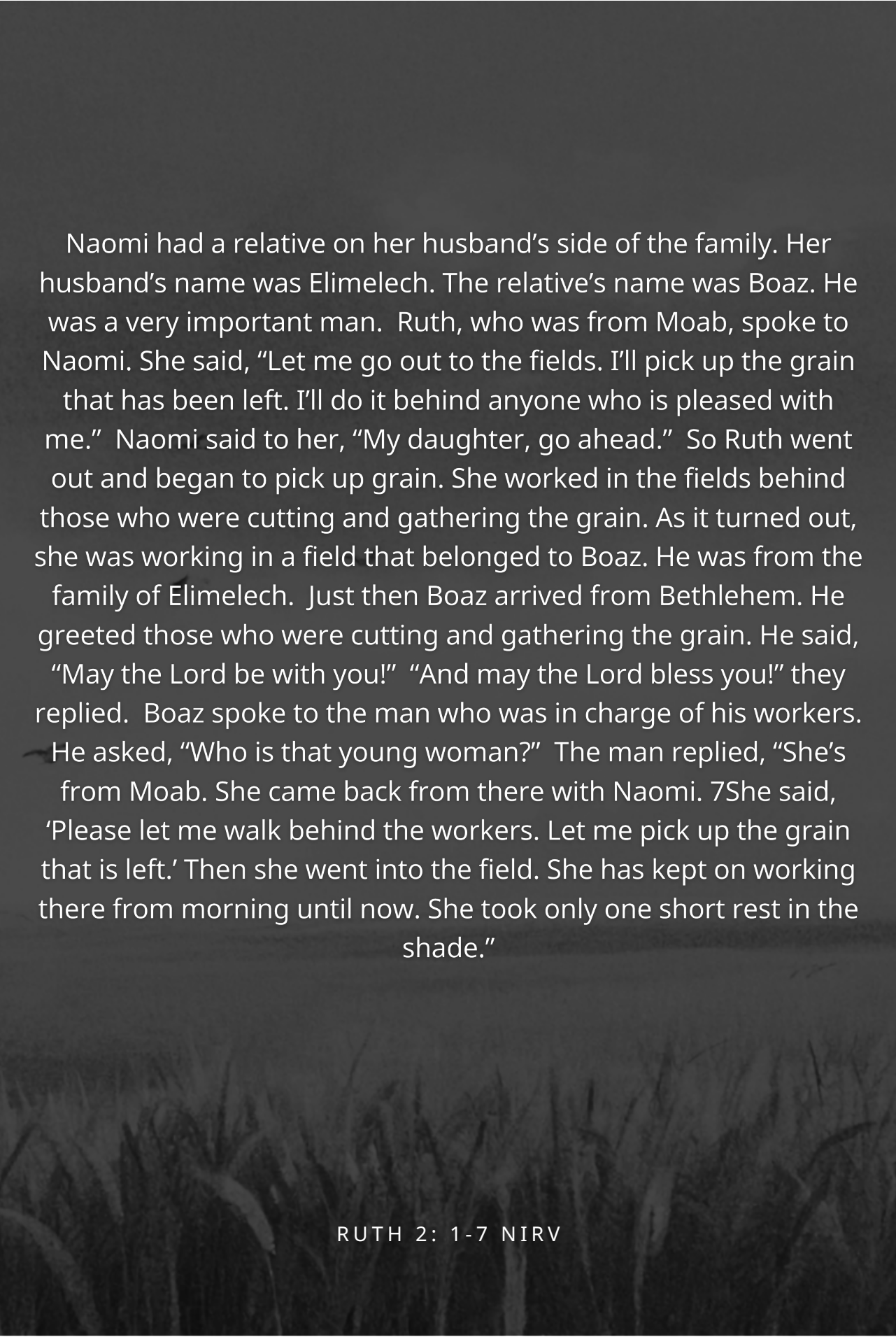
Read Ruth 1:6-14. Focus on Naomi's reasoning and Orpah and Ruth's choices.

DISCUSSION:

- Why does Naomi urge her daughters-in-law to stay in Moab?
- What motivates Ruth to stay with Naomi?
- How can we discern God's will when faced with difficult choices?

APPLICATION:

- Invite group members to consider a major decision they are currently facing. What steps can they take to seek God's guidance?
- Closing Activity Options: **Decision Mapping** - Create a visual map outlining the pros and cons of a current decision, seeking to identify God's leading.
- Share & Pray: Break into pairs for group members to share about what they are going through, then lift each other up in prayer.



Naomi had a relative on her husband's side of the family. Her husband's name was Elimelech. The relative's name was Boaz. He was a very important man. Ruth, who was from Moab, spoke to Naomi. She said, "Let me go out to the fields. I'll pick up the grain that has been left. I'll do it behind anyone who is pleased with me." Naomi said to her, "My daughter, go ahead." So Ruth went out and began to pick up grain. She worked in the fields behind those who were cutting and gathering the grain. As it turned out, she was working in a field that belonged to Boaz. He was from the family of Elimelech. Just then Boaz arrived from Bethlehem. He greeted those who were cutting and gathering the grain. He said, "May the Lord be with you!" "And may the Lord bless you!" they replied. Boaz spoke to the man who was in charge of his workers. He asked, "Who is that young woman?" The man replied, "She's from Moab. She came back from there with Naomi. 7She said, 'Please let me walk behind the workers. Let me pick up the grain that is left.' Then she went into the field. She has kept on working there from morning until now. She took only one short rest in the shade."

4. PROVIDENCE & PROVISION

PASSAGE:

Ruth 2: 1-7

THEME:

Recognizing God's provision and working with what you have.

KEY VERSE:

Matthew 6:33 - "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

INTRODUCTION:

Recap and Transition: Start by briefly recapping Part 3 (Ruth 1:15-22), where Ruth committed to Naomi and embraced Naomi's people and God. Emphasize Ruth's faith and willingness to leave everything behind as a foundation for understanding God's provision in this session.

Introduce the Theme: Highlight the concept of God's providence and how it intertwines with our efforts. Define providence as God's loving care and guidance in our lives. It's not merely about passively waiting for God to act, but actively seeking His kingdom while trusting that He will provide what we need.

Setting the Context: Understanding gleaning as God's mandated system for the poor illuminates Ruth's courageous humility as a vulnerable Moabite widow with no other means of support. Youth can connect Ruth's socio-economic challenges with modern issues of poverty and social justice, recognizing God's enduring concern for those facing hardship.

ENGAGE WITH SCRIPTURE

Read Ruth 2:1-7. Highlight Ruth's initiative and her respect for Boaz's property.

DISCUSSION:

- How does Ruth's willingness to work reflect her trust in God?
- What does this passage teach us about the dignity of labor?
- How can we recognize God's provision in our daily lives?

APPLICATION:

- Challenge group members to identify ways they can be proactive in meeting their own needs and serving others.
- Closing Activity Options: **Gratitude List** - Have everyone write down five things they are grateful for, recognizing God's provision in their lives.
- Service Brainstorm: Have people think of opportunities to serve in the church or community using their talents.

So Boaz said to Ruth, "Dear woman, listen to me. Don't pick up grain in any other field. Don't go anywhere else. Stay here with my female servants. Keep your eye on the field where the men are cutting grain. Walk behind the women who are gathering it. Pick up the grain that is left. I've told the men not to touch you. When you are thirsty, go and get a drink. Take water from the jars the men have filled." When Ruth heard that, she bowed down with her face to the ground. She asked, "Why are you being so kind to me? In fact, why are you even noticing me? I'm from another country." Boaz replied, "I've been told all about you. I've heard about everything you have done for your mother-in-law since your husband died. I know that you left your father and mother. I know that you left your country. You came to live with people you didn't know before. "May the Lord reward you for what you have done. May the God of Israel bless you richly. You have come to him to find safety under his care." "Sir, I hope you will continue to be kind to me," Ruth said. "You have comforted me. You have spoken kindly to me. And I'm not even as important as one of your female servants!"

When it was time to eat, Boaz spoke to Ruth again. "Come over here," he said. "Have some bread. Dip it in the wine vinegar." She sat down with the workers. Then Boaz offered her some grain that had been cooked. She ate all she wanted. She even had some left over. Ruth got up to pick up more grain. Then Boaz gave orders to his men. He said, "Suppose she takes some stalks from what the women have tied up. If she does, don't make her look bad. Instead, pull some stalks out for her. Leave them for her to pick up. Don't tell her she shouldn't do it."

5. KINDNESS & COMPASSION

PASSAGE:

Ruth 2: 8-16

THEME:

Showing kindness and compassion to those in need.

KEY VERSE:

Micah 6:8 - "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

INTRODUCTION:

Recap and Transition: Last time, we saw Ruth and Naomi starting their new life in Bethlehem, relying on gleaning. Today, we'll explore what happens when Ruth meets Boaz in the field and receives an act of kindness.

Introduce the Theme: We'll be diving into Ruth 2:8-16 to see how Boaz shows remarkable kindness to Ruth, a vulnerable and marginalized widow. But this isn't just an old story; it's a powerful example of how we can reflect God's love by showing compassion to those in need today. In a world that often feels divided and uncaring, exploring kindness and compassion can inspire us to make a real difference in our own communities.

Setting the Context: Ruth is a vulnerable Moabite widow, gleaning to survive. Boaz is a wealthy landowner who knows God's law to care for the poor. Pay attention to how Boaz goes above and beyond in his kindness to Ruth.

ENGAGE WITH SCRIPTURE

Read Ruth 2:8-16. Focus on Boaz's words and actions toward Ruth.

DISCUSSION:

- What motivates Boaz to show kindness to Ruth?
- How does Boaz's treatment of Ruth reflect God's character?
- How can we show compassion to those who are vulnerable or marginalized?

APPLICATION:

- Encourage group members to identify specific ways they can show kindness and compassion to others in their daily lives.
- Closing Activity Options: **Kindness Challenge** - Challenge each member to do a random act of kindness during the week and share their experience next session.
- Encouragement Notes: Have the group write each other notes with compliments.

So Ruth picked up grain in the field until evening. Then she separated the barley from the straw. It amounted to more than half a bushel. She carried it back to town. Her mother-in-law saw how much she had gathered. Ruth also brought out the food that was left over from the lunch Boaz had given her. She gave it to Naomi. Her mother-in-law asked her, "Where did you pick up grain today? Where did you work? May the man who noticed you be blessed!" Then Ruth told her about the man whose field she had worked in. "The name of the man I worked with today is Boaz," she said. "May the Lord bless him!" Naomi said to her daughter-in-law. "The Lord is still being kind to those who are living and those who are dead." She continued, "That man is a close relative of ours. He's one of our family protectors." Then Ruth, who was from Moab, said, "He told me more. He even said, 'Stay with my workers until they have finished bringing in all of my grain.' " Naomi replied to her daughter-in-law Ruth. She said, "That will be good for you, my daughter. Go with his female servants. You might be harmed if you go to someone else's field." So Ruth stayed close to the female servants of Boaz as she picked up grain. She worked until the time when all of the barley and wheat had been harvested. And she lived with her mother-in-law.

6. GRATITUDE & GUIDANCE

PASSAGE:

Ruth 2: 17-23

THEME:

Expressing gratitude and seeking wise counsel.

KEY VERSE:

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 - "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

INTRODUCTION:

Recap and Transition: Last time, we saw how Ruth returned with food, and Naomi recognized Boaz's kindness. Today, we're looking at Naomi's plan and Ruth's faithful response.

Introduce the Theme: Explore how Ruth expresses gratitude to Naomi for her support and how Naomi provides wise counsel that helps Ruth navigate her situation. In a world where it's easy to focus on what we lack, practicing gratitude can shift our perspective and help us recognize the blessings we already have. And when faced with difficult decisions, seeking guidance from trusted mentors can provide clarity and direction.

Setting the Context: Remember, Ruth is a Moabite widow in a foreign land, relying on the kindness of others to survive. She has been working hard in Boaz's field, gleaning barley to provide food for herself and Naomi. Now, after a long day of work, Ruth returns home to Naomi and shares what happened.

ENGAGE WITH SCRIPTURE

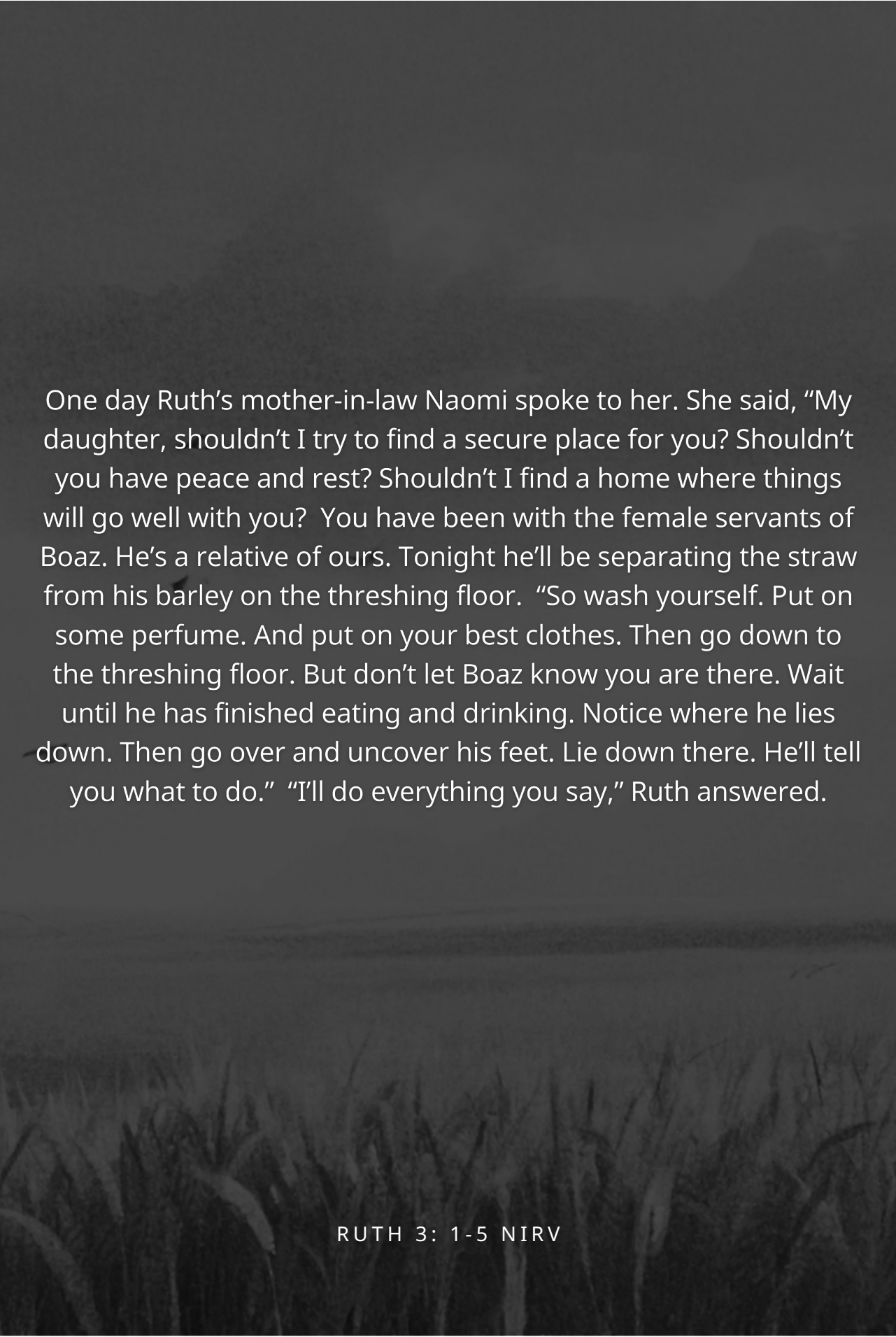
Read Ruth 2:17-23. Highlight Ruth's gratitude and Naomi's wisdom.

DISCUSSION:

- Why is it important to express gratitude, even in difficult circumstances?
- How does Naomi's guidance help Ruth navigate her situation?
- Who are the wise mentors in our lives, and how can we learn from them?

APPLICATION:

- Encourage group members to express gratitude to someone who has helped them and to seek counsel from a mentor.
- Closing Activity Options: **Gratitude Journal** - Start a gratitude journal, writing down three things they are thankful for each day.
- Mentorship Discussion: Discuss qualities to look for in a mentor.



One day Ruth's mother-in-law Naomi spoke to her. She said, "My daughter, shouldn't I try to find a secure place for you? Shouldn't you have peace and rest? Shouldn't I find a home where things will go well with you? You have been with the female servants of Boaz. He's a relative of ours. Tonight he'll be separating the straw from his barley on the threshing floor. "So wash yourself. Put on some perfume. And put on your best clothes. Then go down to the threshing floor. But don't let Boaz know you are there. Wait until he has finished eating and drinking. Notice where he lies down. Then go over and uncover his feet. Lie down there. He'll tell you what to do." "I'll do everything you say," Ruth answered.

RUTH 3: 1-5 NIRV

7. TRUSTING GOD'S PLAN

PASSAGE:

Ruth 3: 1-5

THEME:

Following God's leading even when it doesn't make sense.

KEY VERSE:

Isaiah 55:8-9 - "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

INTRODUCTION:

Recap and Transition: Last session, we saw Naomi recognize Boaz's kindness as God's provision. Today, we explore Naomi's plan and Ruth's faithful response, focusing on Trusting God's Plan.

Introduce the Theme: Explore how Ruth and Naomi navigate uncertain circumstances by relying on their faith in God. We often face situations where we don't know what the future holds, and we're unsure of which path to take. Learning to trust God's plan, even when it differs from our own, can bring peace and confidence in the midst of uncertainty.

Setting the Context: Naomi instructs Ruth to dress in a certain way, go to the threshing floor at night, and lie down at Boaz's feet. This was a symbolic gesture, indicating Ruth's desire for Boaz to take her as his wife and provide her with security and a future.

ENGAGE WITH SCRIPTURE

Read Ruth 3:1-5. Discuss Naomi's plan and the cultural context.

DISCUSSION:

- What does Naomi's plan reveal about her trust in God and her understanding of the law?
- How does Ruth demonstrate her faith by following Naomi's instructions?
- How can we trust God when His plans seem confusing or risky?

APPLICATION:

- Challenge group members to identify areas where they need to trust God more fully.
- Closing Activity Options: **Surrender Prayer** - A time of prayer committing areas of your life over to God.
- Affirmation: Write down a positive truth about God and take it with you.

So she went down to the threshing floor. She did everything her mother-in-law had told her to do. When Boaz had finished eating and drinking, he was in a good mood. He went over to lie down at the far end of the grain pile. Then Ruth approached quietly. She uncovered his feet and lay down there. In the middle of the night, something surprised Boaz and woke him up. He turned and found a woman lying there at his feet. "Who are you?" he asked.

"I'm Ruth," she said. "You are my family protector. So take good care of me by making me your wife." "Dear woman, may the Lord bless you," he replied. "You are showing even more kindness now than you did earlier. You didn't run after the younger men, whether they were rich or poor. Dear woman, don't be afraid. I'll do for you everything you ask. All of the people of my town know that you are a noble woman. "It's true that I'm a relative of yours. But there's a family protector who is more closely related to you than I am. So stay here for the night. In the morning if he wants to help you, good. Let him help you. But if he doesn't want to, then I'll do it. You can be sure that the Lord lives. And you can be just as sure that I'll help you. Lie down here until morning."

So she stayed at his feet until morning. But she got up before anyone could be recognized. Boaz thought, "No one must know that a woman came to the threshing floor." He said to Ruth, "Bring me the coat you have around you. Hold it out." So she did. He poured more than fifty pounds of barley into it and helped her pick it up. Then he went back to town. Ruth came to her mother-in-law. Naomi asked, "How did it go, my daughter?"

Then Ruth told her everything Boaz had done for her. She said, "He gave me all of this barley. He said, 'Don't go back to your mother-in-law with your hands empty.'" Naomi said, "My daughter, sit down until you find out what happens. The man won't rest until he settles the whole matter today."

8. BOLDNESS & INTEGRITY

PASSAGE:

Ruth 3: 6-18

THEME:

Acting with boldness and integrity in relationships.

KEY VERSE:

Proverbs 4:23 - "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."

INTRODUCTION:

Recap and Transition: Last time, we discussed Naomi's plan for Ruth to approach Boaz at the threshing floor, a decision rooted in their faith and a desire for security. Today, we'll see how Ruth carries out that plan and how Boaz responds.

Introduce the Theme: We will explore how Ruth and Boaz act with both courage and respect in a complex social situation. Navigating relationships can be tricky, and it's essential to understand how to act with both boldness and integrity, honoring God in our interactions.

Setting the Context: Ruth follows Naomi's plan by approaching Boaz at the threshing floor. This was a bold move, placing her in a vulnerable position. Culturally, this was a significant gesture, asking Boaz to fulfill his duty as kinsman-redeemer by marrying and providing for her and Naomi. Boaz responds with integrity, honoring Ruth's boldness and vowing to act responsibly according to the law and customs of their society.

ENGAGE WITH SCRIPTURE

Read Ruth 3:6-18, focusing on Ruth's actions and Boaz's response.

DISCUSSION:

- How does Ruth demonstrate both boldness and respect in her interaction with Boaz?
- How does Boaz respond with integrity and honor?
- How can we maintain purity and respect in our relationships?

APPLICATION:

- Encourage group members to set healthy boundaries in their relationships and to seek accountability.
- Closing Activity Options: **Boundary Setting** - Have group members write down three boundaries they want to establish or maintain in their relationships.
- Role Play: Do role play scenarios that involve situations when it might be hard to maintain personal values.

Boaz went up to the town gate and sat down there. The family protector he had talked about came by. Then Boaz said, "Come over here, my friend. Sit down." So the man went over and sat down. Boaz brought ten of the elders of the town together. He said, "Sit down here." So they did. Then he spoke to the family protector. He said, "Naomi has come back from Moab. She's selling the piece of land that belonged to our relative Elimelech. I thought I should bring the matter to your attention. I suggest that you buy the land while those who are sitting here and the elders of my people are looking on as witnesses. "If you are willing to buy it back, do it. But if you aren't, tell me. Then I'll know. No one has the right to buy it back except you. And I'm next in line."

"I'll buy it," he said. Then Boaz said, "When you buy the land from Naomi and Ruth, who is from Moab, you must get married to Ruth. She's the dead man's widow. So you must take her as your wife. His name must stay with his property." When the family protector heard that, he said, "Then I can't buy the land. If I did, I might put my own property in danger. So you buy it. I can't do it."

In earlier times in Israel, there was a certain practice. It was used when family land was bought back and changed owners. The practice made the sale final.

One person would take his sandal off and give it to the other. That was how people in Israel showed that a business matter had been settled. So the family protector said to Boaz, "Buy it yourself." And he took his sandal off. Then Boaz spoke to the elders and all of the people. He said, "Today you are witnesses. You have seen that I have bought land from Naomi. I have bought all of the property that had belonged to Elimelech, Kilion and Mahlon. "I've also taken Ruth, who is from Moab, to become my wife. She is Mahlon's widow. I've decided to get married to her so the dead man's name will stay with his property. Now his name won't disappear from his family line. It won't disappear from the town records. Today you are witnesses!" Then the elders and all who were at the gate spoke. They said, "We are witnesses. The woman is coming into your home. May the Lord make her to be like Rachel and Leah. Together they built up the nation of Israel. May you be an important person in Ephrathah. May you be famous in Bethlehem. The Lord will give you children through this young woman. May your family be like the family of Perez. He was the son Tamar had by Judah."

9. REDEMPTION & RESTORATION

PASSAGE:

Ruth 4: 1-12

THEME:

Understanding God's redemptive power.

KEY VERSE:

Galatians 3:13-14 - "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit."

INTRODUCTION:

Recap and Transition: Last time, we talked about Ruth's courage in approaching Boaz and Boaz's integrity in handling the situation with honor and respect. Today, we'll witness Boaz taking action to fulfill his promise and redeem Ruth and Naomi.

Introduce the Theme: We'll explore how God's redemptive power can transform broken situations into something beautiful and new. Christ's ultimate act of redemption brings blessings and restoration to all who believe. Understanding God's redemptive power gives us hope and empowers us to participate in His work of restoring the world.

Setting the Context: Boaz goes to the town gate, which was the center of legal and commercial activity, to negotiate with the next closest relative (kinsman) who had the first right of redemption. Just as Boaz stepped in to redeem Ruth and Naomi, God sent Jesus to redeem us from sin and death, offering us new life and hope.

ENGAGE WITH SCRIPTURE

Read Ruth 4:1-12. Highlight Boaz's actions and the significance of the legal proceedings.

DISCUSSION:

- How does Boaz's role as kinsman-redeemer foreshadow Jesus' role as our Redeemer?
- What does this passage teach us about God's love and compassion for the marginalized?
- How can we participate in God's redemptive work in the world?

APPLICATION:

- Encourage group members to reflect on areas in their lives where they need God's redemption.
- Closing Activity Options: **Commitment to Service** - Have group members commit to a way to serve their community as a means of showing God's love.
- Prayer: Close in a prayer for each other and for the community.

So Boaz got married to Ruth. She became his wife. Then he made love to her. The Lord blessed her so that she became pregnant. And she had a son. The women said to Naomi, "We praise the Lord. Today he has provided a family protector for you. May this child become famous all over Israel! He will make your life new again. He'll take care of you when you are old. He's the son of your very own daughter-in-law. She loves you. She is better to you than seven sons." Then Naomi put the child on her lap and took care of him. The women who were living there said, "Naomi has a son." They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse. Jesse was the father of David.

Here is the family line of Perez.

Perez was the father of Hezron.

Hezron was the father of Ram.

Ram was the father of Amminadab.

Amminadab was the father of Nahshon.

Nahshon was the father of Salmon.

Salmon was the father of Boaz.

Boaz was the father of Obed.

Obed was the father of Jesse.

And Jesse was the father of **David**.

10. LEGACY & LINEAGE

PASSAGE:

Ruth 4: 13-22

THEME:

Leaving a lasting legacy of faith.

KEY VERSE:

Psalm 145:4 - "One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts."

INTRODUCTION:

Recap and Transition: In our last session, we explored how Boaz stepped up as the kinsman-redeemer, mirroring how Jesus redeems us from sin and brokenness. Today, we'll discuss the lasting impact of Ruth's faithfulness and how God uses ordinary people to fulfill extraordinary purposes.

Introduce the Theme: The choices we make today shape the world that future generations will inherit. Understanding the significance of legacy challenges us to live intentionally, leaving a positive impact on those who come after us and inspiring them to continue the cycle of faith.

Setting the Context: Ruth's story culminates in a lineage that leads to King David and, ultimately, to Jesus. Ruth, a Moabite woman, is included in the genealogy of Jesus, demonstrating God's inclusive love and His ability to use anyone to fulfill His purposes. Her story inspires us to live with purpose, knowing that our actions can have a lasting impact on future generations.

ENGAGE WITH SCRIPTURE

Read Ruth 4:13-22. Trace the genealogy and highlight the significance of Ruth's inclusion in Jesus' lineage.

DISCUSSION:

- How does Ruth's story demonstrate that God can use anyone to fulfill His purposes?
- What qualities do we want to pass on to future generations?
- How can we live our lives in a way that honors God and inspires others?

APPLICATION:

- Challenge group members to identify ways they can invest in the lives of younger generations and leave a legacy of faith.
- Closing Activity Options: **Letter to the Future** - Write a letter to a future generation, sharing their hopes and dreams for the world.
- Share a blessing: Pair into groups and have each person tell the other what they admire about their faith.

SERVICE IDEAS

Each of these service ideas connects with aspects of the Ruth narrative, such as loyalty, commitment, provision, kindness, and redemption. These projects will aim to foster Christlikeness and servant leadership within the youth and young adult groups.

- **Gleaning Project** | Inspiration: Ruth gleaned in the fields to provide for herself and Naomi. Description: Partner with local farms to collect leftover crops after the harvest. Donate the gleaned produce to local food banks or shelters.
- **"Loyalty in Action" Mentoring Program** | Inspiration: Ruth's unwavering loyalty to Naomi. Description: Create a mentoring program pairing youth and young adults with younger members of the church or community.
- **"Comfort in Grief" Support Initiative** | Inspiration: Naomi's experience of loss and grief. Description: Offer support to individuals and families in the church or community who have experienced loss or are going through difficult times.
- **"Naomi's Wisdom" Intergenerational Dialogue** | Inspiration: Naomi's wisdom in guiding Ruth. Description: Facilitate conversations between youth/young adults and older members of the church to share wisdom, experiences, and insights.
- **"Boaz's Kindness" Community Outreach** | Inspiration: Boaz's kindness and compassion toward Ruth. Description: Organize a community outreach event focused on showing kindness and meeting the practical needs of vulnerable populations.
- **"Lineage of Leaders" Mentorship** | Inspiration: Ruth's inclusion in the lineage of Jesus. Description: Establish a mentorship program to invest in the leadership development of younger members of the church, preparing them to become future leaders.
- **"Redemption in Action" Project** | Inspiration: Boaz acting as a kinsman-redeemer. Description: Engage in a project that addresses a specific injustice or need in the community, working to bring restoration and redemption.
- **"Passing on Faith" Storytelling Workshop** | Inspiration: Psalm 145:4: "One generation commends your works to another". Description: Host a workshop where youth and young adults learn to share their faith stories and personal testimonies with others.

BEST PRACTICES FOR FACILITATORS

To ensure youth and young adults feel safe, yearn to return, and participate openly, facilitators should focus on creating an environment characterized by trust, relevance, and spiritual depth. Here's a breakdown of key practices:

1. Create a Safe & Welcoming Environment

2. Ensure Relevance & Real-Life Connection

3. Foster Spiritual Growth & Reflection

4. Encourage Open Participation

5. Adaptability & Flexibility

6. Key Facilitation Skills

- a. Humble & Teachable: Be open to learning from participants.
- b. Authenticity: Share personal experiences to build trust.
- c. Relational: Foster meaningful relationships.
- d. Clear Communication: Ensure instructions are easily understood.
- e. Empowerment: Encourage ownership of the spiritual journey.
- f. Self-Awareness: Acknowledge and address personal biases.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



Lost and alone?



Me too.



*But love can find us
where we least
expect it.*