



Ruth – Week Four

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Overview

This week we look at the story of Ruth, a widow who made a comeback from heavy loss to an incredible destiny.

Discussion Questions

How we respond in difficult situations can determine the trajectory of our lives and those of our children. Sometimes our choices can leave us with tough consequences; other choices we make can lead us into our God-given destiny.

- *Our choices write our future.* Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Explain.
- Think about a poor decision you made recently and how it impacted you. Now think of a wise decision you made. How has that decision affected your life?

Ruth's Backstory

The **book of Ruth** in the Bible begins with a famine in Israel. Faced with starvation, Naomi, her husband, and two sons *choose* to travel to the land of Moab. After marrying Moabite women, the two sons follow their father in death. Embittered, Naomi *decides* to return to her homeland of Israel. Her daughter-in-law, Orpah, *chooses* to remain in Moab. Ruth, Naomi's other daughter-in-law, *chooses* to return with Naomi to Israel. **(Passage found in Ruth 1:1-18)**

- After devastating losses, Naomi's heart becomes bitter towards God. Does your view of God change when you are in a difficult season?
- Ruth's *ComeBack* story begins with a choice and a decision at a critical moment. Why do you think Orpah stayed in Moab and Ruth followed Naomi to Israel?

Three Truths About God-Given Relationships

Using Ruth and Naomi as an example, let's explore what happens when we trust God and embrace the divine relationships He brings into our lives.

1. Embracing God-given relationships requires discernment.

Amidst tragedy, Ruth understood the importance of staying connected in divine relationships.

- Can you give other examples from the Bible of God-given connections?
- Aside from your family, share about a relationship that you believe is ordained by God? How did you discern that the relationship was part of your destiny?

2. Embracing God-given relationships require courage.

In **Ruth 1:15**, Naomi discourages Ruth from joining her: *“Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods. Return after your sister-in-law.”* As in Ruth’s case, it takes courage to abandon the familiar and cling to a divine connection.

- What fears or hindrances prevent us from embracing God-given relationships?
- Based on her decision to join Naomi, describe Ruth’s character.

3. Embracing God-given relationships produces destiny.

By embracing her God-appointed relationship with Naomi, Ruth receives supernatural favor from God, resulting in marriage to her kinsman, Boaz. Moreover, Ruth the Moabite is forever listed in the genealogy of our Messiah, Jesus Christ. Talk about destiny!

- What does Ruth’s story teach us about hope amidst suffering?
- Do you believe that God has a good plan for your life? Why do you believe this?

Life Challenge

Your destiny is tied to your relationships. Write on a sheet of paper any God-ordained relationship(s) you have.

- What are some ways you can foster friendships that are appointed by God?
- If you can’t think of any God-ordained relationship, begin to pray and ask God for divine connections. Hint: It may be a new friendship or someone who is already in your life. He will give you the discernment to recognize it.

Prayer

Jesus, thank You for showing me that there is always hope amidst trials. Thank You for the godly relationships You have placed in my life. And thank You for the new ones You have already ordained. I ask for the discernment and courage to embrace and foster those relationships. I trust You and Your plan for my life. I want my life to glorify You and fulfill the destiny You have set before me. Amen. Pray for the specific needs of the group.