



Ruth's Faithfulness

WEEK 2 DISCUSSION GUIDE

OVERVIEW

In this message of the new series entitled, *Inside Matters*, we will learn about one of the most important characteristics we can have when facing disappointment and loss—faithfulness.

DISCUSSION

Faithfulness is steadfast in affection or allegiance, firm in adherence to promises...full of faith. Ruth was faithful. We can learn from Ruth how to trust God and embrace the divine relationships He brings into our lives. These relationships can act as the very tools God uses to help us overcome the disappointments and trials of life. God brings the relationships, but we still need to learn how to discern, build, and embrace them.

Keys to Building God-Given Relationships:

1. Embracing God-given relationships requires discernment.
Ruth 1:16: *But Ruth said, "Entreat me not to leave you..."* Here we see Ruth discerned a seed of destiny in her relationship with Naomi. Ruth could have given up and lived as a victim the rest of her life, but she chose to trust that God brought Naomi into her life for a purpose beyond just marrying her son. She understood and discerned that her personal destiny was connected with Naomi. For God to build our lives to its full potential and endure the hardest of seasons, we need to evaluate the relationships He brings in our lives.
 - How do you know when something is from God or from the enemy?
 - Give an example of what a God-given relationship can look like?
2. Embracing God-given relationships requires courage
There comes a crisis moment—a tipping point—in every God-ordained relationship where it takes some courage to stick. It took courage for Ruth to walk into Bethlehem and stay in her relationship with Naomi. We all need courage to walk through adversity, trials, and to follow the Lord and walk with

those God-ordained relationships. We see these God-given relationships throughout Scripture: Elijah and Elisha, David and Jonathan, Paul and Timothy. When we experience difficult seasons, setbacks, or some sort of adversity, we should run *to* our God-given relationships instead of running *from* them. Even if there are disappointments in a relationship, we should try our best to reconcile and restore the relationships God gives us.

- Why do we sometimes isolate ourselves when going through a difficult time instead of running toward our godly relationships?
 - Why is it important to try to reconcile our godly relationships if there is tension?
3. Embracing God-given relationships produces destiny
- When Ruth and Naomi finally get back to Bethlehem, Naomi strategically sends Ruth out into the fields to glean from the harvest. During that time, **Ruth 2:1** says: **There was a relative of Naomi's husband, a man of great wealth, of the family of Elimelech. His name was Boaz.** Boaz became the kinsman redeemer to buy Naomi's land and take Ruth as his wife—saving her from a life of poverty. Not only does Boaz save Ruth but Jesus ends up coming from their family lineage. Ruth's faithfulness positioned her to be a part of destiny! There are seeds of destiny in our divine relationships! Once we discern it's from God, we should have the courage to stick with it, say we're sorry, and walk through the offenses because it could produce something amazing down the road.
- Why do you think Naomi strategically sent Ruth out to the field?
 - Naomi and Ruth weren't blood related. Why do you think they continued to embrace their relationship?
 - Share a time when your godly relationship(s) produced something amazing.

LIFE CHALLENGE

What's inside of us matters! Are you filled with faith? Are you faithful to God and the relationships He brings into your life? Take some time to evaluate and discern the relationships you have. If there are any relationships that God's calling you to restore, ask Him to fill you with wisdom and courage, and be obedient to what He's asking you to do.

PRAYER REQUESTS & CLOSE IN PRAYER