

### Tips and Tricks:

The sermon notes are designed to be used as a guide for discussion. Don't feel like you have to use every question. Some questions will take a while to work through and others will be over in a few seconds.

1. Don't teach the lesson. The sermon was just preached. Just ask the questions and let everyone else talk.
2. Let other people ask questions. It's OK to go "off topic" for a while. Sometimes those conversations are more interesting anyway!
3. Have fun. Don't forget to laugh and crack up. Relationships, not curriculum, are the heartbeat of our ministry. Remember: We have to build a relational bridge strong enough to hold the truth!

### Agenda for Group Time

1. Ice Breaker - Lighthearted ice breaker question (10 minutes)
2. Discussion - Bible study, sharing and application. (25 Minutes)
3. Prayer - Pray together (5 minutes)
4. Planning - Remember to talk about what's coming up.

### Icebreaker

What's one of the most positive changes you've experienced in life?

Changes I've made:

- Sweet rolls to Slim-Fast
- Hair on my head to hair on my back
- VHS to DVD to Streaming
- Huffy to Harley
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Read Ruth 2

### 1. The Reality of Change

Question: How would you describe your attitude towards change?

- I like it when other people change their bad habits.
- I would rather things stayed the same.
- I am excited about change.
- I don't mind change, as long as I understand why things are changing.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Question: In your opinion, why do we tend to be opposed to change?

- Fear
- It makes us uncomfortable
- It takes work
- We take it personally
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

For Discussion:

Scan the first two chapters of Ruth.

What changes in people's lives do you see? Are there changes that characters decided to make? Are there any changes that were forced on anyone?

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## 2. The Process of Change

[2] And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after him in whose sight I shall find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter." [3] So she set out and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers, and she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the clan of Elimelech. [4] And behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem. And he said to the reapers, "The LORD be with you!" And they answered, "The LORD bless you." -Ruth 2:2-4

Question: How do Ruth and Boaz demonstrate their faith?

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What does the next step of faith look like for you?

- Reading my bible daily
- Trusting Christ
- Inviting a friend to church
- Serving in the community
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Question: How does the next step of faith you take probate change in your life and in the lives you influence?

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## 3. The Hope of Change

[17] So she gleaned in the field until evening. Then she beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley.... [19] And her mother-in-law said to her, "Where did you glean today? And where have you worked? Blessed be the man who took notice of you." So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked and said, "The man's name with whom I worked today is Boaz." -Ruth 2:17-19

Question: How did God provide for Ruth and for Naomi?

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"God's pattern of teaching us, his pattern of making us look more like Jesus, is often to overload our systems so we are forced to cry for grace. When we realize that we can't fix ourselves is when we cry out to God."

-Paul Miller

For Discussion: Share a time in your life when God "overloaded your system". What changes did God bring about in your life?

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Question: When unwanted change comes our way, what are some things we can cling to?

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## Work It Out!

One thing I'll do differently because of this sermon:

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