

### 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 relationship that has been especially encouraging for you?

Question: The quickest way to foul-up a relationship:

- Tap your pen on your glass eye during conversations.
- Make beeping noises when they back up.
- Have your secretary sign your anniversary card.
- Ask them their due date when they're not expecting.
- Say something sarcastic on every post they make on Facebook or Instagram.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

Read Ruth 1:6-22 together as a group

### The Fork in the Road

1. The Almost Faith of Orpah (vv 8-14)

Orpah began the journey home to Bethlehem, but she turned around and went back to Moab. Why did she go back?

- She went to what was familiar.
- Naomi made a convincing argument.
- She had more hope in Moab than in Bethlehem.
- She was more committed to Naomi than to God.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Question: Can you think of any other examples in Scripture where people turned back?

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Question: When you became a Christian, or if you are still considering becoming a Christian, what were/ are the familiar things in your life that keep you from trusting Jesus?

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## 2. The Faith of Ruth (vv 15-18)

It is clear that Ruth loved Naomi. But it's also clear that her commitment to go to Bethlehem goes beyond Naomi her love for Naomi. She loves God. What evidence do we see in her words that she loves God?

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What is it going to cost Ruth to follow after God in Bethlehem?

- She's left her homeland
- She will be a foreigner
- She has left what is comfortable
- She's left the gods of Moab to be with the True God
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Question: What does it cost people today to follow after Christ?

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## The Road to God's Grace

In a very real sense, a Christian is just like Ruth. Paul describes the road to God's grace in Ephesians 2. Read Ephesians 2 together. IN what ways are we like Ruth?

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God used Naomi to bring Ruth to Himself. In the same way, God wants to use all of us to bring people to Himself.

Question: Who is one person in your life that you think God might be calling you to influence?

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What is one thing you can do to help them take the next step to God's grace?

- Invite to church
- Invite to small group
- Take them to lunch
- Invite them to our house
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Question: What are some things our small group can do together to help people find God's grace?

## Work It Out!

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

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