

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 best gifts you've ever received?

Things I've received for "free":

- Help from the government
- A puppy
- Double pneumonia
- In-laws
- Gum on my shoe
- Other: _____

Read Ruth 2

Question: What is the difference between Ruth and Naomi at the beginning of the Ruth 2 compared to at the end of Ruth 2?

The Story of Our Lives

Ruth 2:3

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.

Question: What "coincidences" needed to happen for Ruth to meet Boaz?

Think of the house you currently live in. What "coincidences" needed to happen for you to live there? In light of all those "coincidences", do you think God has placed you where you live?

What happens to us when we forget that God is Sovereign and that He is good?

- If we do well or succeed, then we become proud.
- If we face hardship we can get bitter.
- We can think that its all up to chance.
- We can lose sight of God's purposes.
- Other: _____

Why do we need to remember that God is both sovereign and that He is good?

The Story of God

As you read Ruth 2, what clues do we find that God is actually in charge of the story?

For Discussion: Share a story from your past where you can now see God's fingerprint.

Question: How can we tell that Boaz is a godly man?

- He obeyed God by leaving the corners of his fields.
- He protected Ruth
- He spoke blessings to his workers
- He probably had a John Deer tractor and that is what really matters.
- He used his strength to help the weak.
- Other: _____

Ruth 2:11-12

But Boaz answered her, "All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told to me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before. [12] The LORD repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!"

What does Boaz know about Ruth? What does it mean to be find refuge in the Lord? How can our group help each other and others find refuge in the Lord?

Question: Boaz helped Ruth, who was a poor widow from another country. Who are the people in our town that might be like Ruth and need our help?

Question: How is Boaz a picture of what Jesus is like?

- We were poor and Jesus helped us.
- We were aliens and Jesus took us in.
- We were helpless and Jesus helped us.
- We were unprotected and Jesus protected us.
- Other: _____

Work It Out!

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