

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

When have you had a sense of real belonging and togetherness with others?

Things I look for in my friends:

- They give away Netflix passwords
- Love me for my mind
- Deep pockets, new car, big cigar
- High-limit Visa
- Other: _____

Ruth 3 occurs in three scenes: Dusk, Midnight, and Dawn. Let's look at each scene.

Dusk - Read Ruth 3:1-7

Question: What do you think of Naomi's plan for Ruth? Why do you think Ruth was willing to go through with this plan?

Naomi thinks she can see what God is up to. She thinks she sees that there is a match between Ruth and Boaz - and she is right. But the way she is going about this isn't right. The plan out of bounds and there is too much risk involved for Ruth. In a lot of ways, she is forcing God's hand. She wants God to do something for her and to do it now.

Question: Have you ever done something to force God's hand? How did it go for you?

Midnight - Read Ruth 3:8-13

For Discussion: Imagine you are in Boaz's situation and you wake up to find someone sleeping at your feet. This is an incredible invasion of space. How would you respond?

- I would ask them for my covers back.
- I would be scared
- I would reach for my gun
- I would ask them if they'd like to help with the rent or mortgage.
- Other: _____

Question: How does Boaz respond to Ruth? What does Boaz know about Ruth's character? Look at Ruth 2:1, how are Ruth and Boaz similar?

Midnight is when Ruth is the most vulnerable. She is sleeping at the feet of a powerful man named Boaz. It turns out that Boaz is a good man and this is the safest place for her to be. This is how we should relate to Jesus - at His feet and vulnerable.

Question: Why is it difficult to put ourselves in a vulnerable position with others and with Jesus?

- We prefer control
- It isn't safe
- We'd rather talk about news, weather, and sports.
- Pride
- Other: _____

Question: How can we help one another develop vulnerability with Jesus and one another?

Dawn - Read Ruth 3:14-18

At dawn, Ruth returns to Naomi with loads of food. It's a down payment on their redemption. Things are going to get better for them.

Question: Can you think of a time in your life when things just got better?

When Ruth returned with seed, God's love was becoming tangible to Naomi and Ruth. There was tangible evidence that God was taking care of them. When did God's love become tangible to you?

We haven't talked about this very much yet, but Boaz is a lot like Jesus. In what ways is Boaz like Jesus?

Work It Out!

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