

Small Group Guide

Week of May 19, 2024

Round Table Discussion: Mark, Leigh, Christian, Alex
Part of a Better Story



Icebreaker



- If you had to eat one meal everyday for the rest of your life what would it be?
- What is one unique or quirky habit you have?



Discussion



- Who has had a moment in their life where they only recognize God's providence now as they look back?
- When has following God required you to take a risk or make sacrifices? What gave you the courage?
- Are there areas where you have been holding back because it's inconvenient or risky?
- What is your next God-honoring risk?
- Naomi went through heartbreak, but God redeemed her story. What troubles or heartbreaks are you facing that you need God's redemption in?
- How does praying together strengthen our faith and support each other?
- If God is able, why doesn't He do it?
- Share your thoughts on the statement, "While you are waiting, God is still working."
- What areas of your life do you need to trust God's ability more fully?
- How does Ruth's story encourage you about the role you can play in God's bigger redemptive story?



Thought for the Group



The Book of Ruth shows us how God can take our heartbreaks and disappointments and turn them into a beautiful story of hope and redemption.

In chapter 1, we see the heartbreak as Naomi returns to Bethlehem destitute and empty. But God was already at work behind the scenes orchestrating circumstances.

In chapter 2, we see God's providence as Ruth just "happens" to end up working in the field of Boaz, who shows her unexpected kindness. God provided through Boaz's generosity.

Chapter 3 shows Ruth's faith as she takes a risk, following Naomi's plan to have Boaz redeem them from their difficult situation.

Then in chapter 4, we see the beautiful payoff of redemption, Boaz marrying Ruth and providing an heir to carry on Naomi's family line. Throughout the story, we see the hand of God's providence working behind the scenes, using people's choices and circumstances to fulfill his greater purposes. We also see the power of prayer, as people continually cry out to God briefly in their moments of need. The big takeaway is that we can be people who trust God's providence, take God-honoring risks when he leads, surround ourselves with prayer, and remember that our God is able to bring redemption into any situation.

No matter what chapter we find ourselves in currently, God is still writing a better story for those who follow him. We're all invited to be part of that better story.



Next Steps



- Prayerfully reflect and ask God to reveal how He may be orchestrating situations, journal any insights.
- Identify an area where God is calling you to take a risk or make a sacrifice. Make a plan to take a concrete step of obedience this week.