

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

PRAY TOGETHER

Lord, thank you for the picture of loyal love and redemption we see in Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz. Holy Spirit, open our hearts and minds as we read and talk, so we don't just understand this story but hear what you're personally calling each of us to leave behind and to trust you with. Show us where we've been "doing what seems right in our own eyes," and gently convict us to return to you. Give us courage to take a clear next step of obedience and to invest in "our people" as we follow you together.

ICE BREAKER

Pastor Derek compared the book of Ruth to a Hallmark movie as a 'palate cleanser' after Judges. If your life with God this past year were a movie, what genre would it be—and why?

SERMON OVERVIEW



SCAN FOR
SERMON CLIP



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This week, we are joined by Northview's Marriage & Care Pastor, Derek Irvin as we study the book of Ruth. We encounter Ruth, a Moabite woman who makes the courageous decision to leave everything familiar behind, declaring to her mother-in-law Naomi, 'Your people will be my people and your God will be my God!' This moment captures the essence of true faith: moving from knowing about God to making Him our God through personal decision. Ruth's willingness to walk into the unknown based on what she witnessed in Naomi's relationship with God challenges us to examine our own faith journey. Are we living in such a way that others are drawn to the God we serve? The story beautifully illustrates that we need our people to walk out our faith. Ruth didn't just commit to God; she committed to God's people. We're reminded that it's possible to find our church but not put in the harder work to find our people, and we've only discovered half of what church is meant to be until we find both. The romance between Ruth and Boaz teaches us about Godly character and integrity in relationships, but the deeper story reveals Jesus as our ultimate Kinsman Redeemer who paid the price to rescue us from spiritual bankruptcy and restore our relationship with God.

READ SCRIPTURE

THE BOOK OF RUTH CAN BE READ ALOUD IN 15 MINUTES.
WE ENCOURAGE YOUR GROUP THIS WEEK TO READ IT TOGETHER.

CONNECT RELATIONALLY

1) As Naomi modeled for Ruth, who in your life exemplifies their relationship with God in such a way that you say, "I want that kind of faith."

2) Naomi renames herself "Mara" because she feels God has made her life very bitter (Ruth 1:20–21). Have you ever felt that way toward God? Were you also able to remain steadfastly committed to your faith despite how you felt?

3) Pastor Derek emphasizes the difference between knowing about God and making Him 'my God' through a personal decision and commitment. How would you describe the moment or process when God became personal to you rather than just a concept you were familiar with?

**GROW
SPIRITUALLY**

4) Pastor Derek described Ruth as a “palate cleanser” after Judges’ cycle of “everyone did what was right in their own eyes” (Judges 21:25). How does Ruth 1:1 (“in the days when the judges ruled”) help you understand Ruth as a deliberate contrast to the moral chaos of Judges?

5) In the sermon, we learned about Moab’s history with Israel and the Moabite god Chemosh. After reading Ruth 1:4, 1:15–16, how does understanding Ruth’s background as a Moabite deepen your grasp of the significance of her choosing “your God will be my God”? What commitment and sacrifice is she making?

6) The sermon explained the concept of a “kinsman-redeemer” (family guardian). Study Ruth 2:20 and 3:9–13. How does this cultural role help you understand what Boaz is actually doing for Naomi and Ruth, and how does that illuminate Jesus as our ultimate Redeemer (Ephesians 1:7)?

**LIVE
GENEROUSLY**

7) Ruth was willing to leave Moab and step into the unknown with Naomi and with God (Ruth 1:16–18). What is one “Moab” in your life—something familiar but spiritually limiting—that you sense God may be asking you to leave, and what practical first step could you take this week?

8) Boaz acted as a protector, provider, pursuer, and spiritual initiator. What is one specific way you can imitate Boaz’s initiative this week—whether in your marriage, family, friendships, or with someone vulnerable around you?

9) What is one concrete way you could more openly identify with Jesus and His people (e.g., baptism, sharing your story, inviting someone to church)?

**TAKE
ACTION**

Based on our conversation today, how do you sense the Holy Spirit inviting you to take a next step in practical application? Please complete this statement, I am feeling convicted to take the following action (keep it simple):

Please invite each group member to share their next step, if they have one.

**PRAY
TOGETHER**

Take a few minutes for each person to share a recent joy or praise, as well as something that’s weighing on their heart. Then invite someone to pray over these requests. Be sure to pass them along to everyone in the group so you can keep praying for one another between meetings.

**ENGAGE
TOGETHER**

Baptism - This weekend, across all of our campuses at Northview, we celebrate together with those who have taken a step of obedience through baptism. At Northview, we joyfully profess believers’ baptism as a public declaration of the inward transformation that Christ has inaugurated in your heart as you have surrendered your life to Him. If you have placed your faith in Jesus but have not yet taken this step of testimony, we invite you to consider it as a milestone in your spiritual journey. Please scan the QR Code or click the link above to learn more or sign up for our next session.

