

# Home Group Questions

the week of 02/17/2019

Ruth 1-4

## RUTH – LOVE IN ACTION

### GETTING STARTED...

This past Sunday, Pastor Mel continued his series on the “Ordinary Superheroes of the O.T.”. This week focused on the amazing love story of Ruth and Boaz. This account is a beautiful picture of Ruth caring for, and loving her mother-in-law Naomi, then growing in her love for a man by the name of Boaz, who becomes her redeemer and is a beautiful type of Christ in the Old Testament.

### LOOKING IN THE WORD...

**1. Read Ruth chapter 1.** Naomi experiences major tragedy in her life with the death of her husband and her two sons. One of her sons was married to a woman named Ruth, who dedicates herself to staying with Naomi, as Naomi leaves Moab and travels back to her home country of Israel...as a widow.

**Look especially at Ruth 1:19-21.** Clearly Naomi is struggling with the circumstances of her life. Discuss all the emotions that must have been felt by Naomi and Ruth who had lost her husband. Ruth was leaving her home country of Moab and going to a country she was unfamiliar with. Were Naomi’s words in verses 20-21 understandable? What may have made staying with her on Ruth’s part even more difficult? Knowing how discouraged Naomi was, makes Ruth’s desire to stay with her even more admirable. Have you had times when a friend or relative of yours is caught up in a depressed state and is angry with God? What makes a friendship with a person like that challenging? What does it teach you about how to react when you face difficult circumstances in your life that could be depressing or discouraging?

2. Pastor Mel shared these five principles from Ruth’s actions in Chapter 1. They were:

*Love in Action...*

- 1. Stays connected with someone through difficult times.**  
Ruth 1:16-17; Proverbs 18:24
- 2. Wisely adjusts to others in sacrificial ways.** Ruth 1:16-17; Acts 15:27-31
- 3. Communicates a permanence about the relationship.**  
Ruth 1:17; Hebrews 10:25; 13:5
- 4. Looks for ways to encourage others in all my interactions.**  
Ruth 1:17-18; Hebrews 10:24
- 5. Compassionately prioritizes the problems of others above my own.** Ruth 1:18; Ruth 2:2; Philippians 2

Discuss these principles above and how they relate to your relationship with family members, your spouse, your friends and even your acquaintances. Which group do you find most difficult to put your love into action in each of the five areas listed above.

**3. Discuss the chart that Pastor Mel shared on Sunday**

| UNCONDITIONAL LOVE:                                   |   |
|---|---|
| Does NOT mean:  | DOES mean:  |
| -Being a Doormat for others abuse                     | -Standing up for yourself calmly, firmly                                  |
| -Letting people take advantage of you                 | -Lovingly setting up healthy realistic expectations for help              |
| -Looking the other way when others act badly/sinfully | -Confront biblically in love with goal of restoration and positive change |

Discuss how you balance being a loving person and seeking to help others with the realities of the sin nature found in people that may seek to take advantage of such a giving person. How can you love and yet stand up against someone who is obviously manipulating a situation?

Boaz and Ruth are married at the end of the story. Boaz becomes the redeemer of Ruth and is a beautiful Old Testament type of Christ who is our redeemer.