



A SON IS GIVEN

Look Up

The story of Ruth in the Bible is often told as a kind of Cinderella story. Ruth is a good, but more or less helpless, young woman whose husband has died. She is alone with her mother-in-law and together, they need someone (a man) to rescue them. In the end, Ruth seduces Boaz, who heroically marries her and the story ends happily, ever after. That telling couldn't be further from the truth!

Our passage this week is actually 3 selected readings from Ruth - but they don't tell the whole story. As the leader, read through the book of Ruth at least once - you might have to fill in some gaps.

Read Ruth 1:1-5, 3:1-11, 4:13-17 together as a group. You might choose 3 people to each read one section. Can anyone in the group tell the high points of the whole story?

What especially caught your attention as you read from Ruth? What did you like? What is challenging or difficult to understand?

- How hopeless do you think Naomi and daughters-in-law must have felt after the first 5 verses of the book. What have they lost and what are their prospects for the future?
- What is one of the most difficult losses you have experienced?

- What do you think of Naomi's plan to get a husband for Ruth? How much courage did it take for Ruth to do what she did in chapter 3? How does that show the power of hope?
- Is there a new dream God is asking you to pursue? Is there an old dream he is leading you to resurrect?

What does this passage say about God? What does it say about us?

- Could it be that in the middle of your challenging chapter, God is already at work writing the next part of your story? How do you see this in the book of Ruth?
- It can be easy for us to think that our stories don't matter very much. That our decisions don't have lasting impact. What does this story say about that? How have you seen this played out in your own life and experience?

Look Ahead

- Take a few minutes to reflect quietly on what you have discussed.
- What is one thing that God is asking you to change in light of this story?
- What is the name of the person you will share this passage with this week?
- Take a few minutes to pray for one another.