

# STUDY GUIDE



## RUTH 07.18.21

### [set up]

Share about a time you were in a situation or circumstance that was very difficult for you. Was it an outcome of your own choosing or was it a circumstance beyond your control?

How did you see God show up in the situation and use it for good?

### [digging deeper]

We began a series in the book of Ruth this last weekend. If you are familiar with the book of Ruth and its storyline, how would you summarize it in a brief sentence?

Read Ruth 1:1-9.

What is significant about the timeline of Ruth (In the days when the judges ruled...)? If you need help just go back to the very last verse of the book of Judges preceding the book of Ruth.

Based on the little we know, what observations can you make about the criteria Elimelech used in the decision to take his family to Moab? (What did he seem to think about and not think about? What did he seem to do or not do?)

Point out any areas of compromise that you see in this decision from these first nine verses. (What are they are why are they a compromise?)

What is said about God in these verses? What do we initially learn about God and His character from these verses? (Keep in mind this story has just begun!)

How can Naomi returning back to Bethlehem be seen as an act or symbol of repentance?

(over)

So, thinking through decisions we make, the reasons we make them, the outcome of those decisions, and whether or not we seek the Lord in those decisions, how would you answer these true and false questions?

For each one, explain why you answered the way you did. Keep in mind there may not necessarily be a “right” answer but that these are designed to get you thinking and talking as LifeGroup.

**T/F** If you don’t seek God in your decision making, bad things will happen to you.

**T/F** If you obey God and seek Him in your decisions, nothing bad or painful will happen to you.

**T/F** Once you find yourself in a bad circumstance, there’s no way out and God won’t take you back.

**T/F** Every time you disobey God, He will punish you.

How do these verses in Ruth reinforce the following Scriptures?

Proverbs 14:2 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalms 119:67-68 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 5:10 \_\_\_\_\_

Where do you see Christ and the Gospel in these verses?

### **[living it out]**

What is the strongest takeaway/insight that you have from this time in God’s Word?

What has the Holy Spirit of God affirmed in you during this time in God’s Word?

What is one decision or action that you will take because of this time?

How can this group help support, encourage, and pray for you?

Close in prayer as a group. It may be more beneficial to break into 2-3 smaller groups to spend sufficient time in prayer over what God has shown each person.