

Ruth

Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part altogether, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. How diverse was the community that you grew up in? How diverse is your community now?
2. Have you ever moved far away from where you lived? What was that experience like?

Read the following passage: Ruth 1:1-21

At its core, the book of Ruth tells us an incredible story about the power of friendships shared by Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz, who shared little in common apart from their faith in God. While their cultures, upbringing, and lived experiences were different, their faith provided a way for them to live in diverse community. At Freedom Church, our hope is to do the same. To do so, we must be willing to commit ourselves to walking with one another, fighting for our relationships with one another, and choosing love over indifference and unity over comfort.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. Have you experienced leaving behind a culture and community you know and stepping into a place or group different than what you're familiar with? What were some of the challenges with that transition? What are some things you learned?
2. Loving others will cost us something at some point. Where are areas where you've had to pay the cost of loving others instead of ending the relationship? Have you benefited from someone loving you through a difficult season?
3. What are some of the challenges you've experienced when trying to live in a multiethnic and multigenerational community? What have been some of the benefits? Where are some areas you need to grow in to continue on this journey?
4. Boaz was able to care for Ruth despite his community's best efforts to treat her as an outcast. We can assume that Boaz's parents were a big influence on his perspective. What positive examples did you have growing up that encouraged living in a diverse community? If you're a parent, how are you teaching your children about the importance of a diverse community?

5. Are there areas of your life that have made it difficult to embrace reconciled diversity?
What are some small ways that you can begin to take a step of faith in these areas?

Pray