

Ruth Part 4: Prophetic Prayers Group Guide

BOOK OF RUTH: CHAPTER 4

Welcome. This Group Liturgy will serve as a guide for your time with your group.

1. HANG OUT

Time: Begin the section below 10 - 15 minutes before the group starts

- **Engage**

Start off light and ask simple questions like, how was your day? What did you have for dinner? Keep the heavier conversation for the larger group setting.

- **Prayer of Dedication**

Invite one person or the whole group to dedicate your time to the Lord using Matthew 6:9-13.

9 Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, 10 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us today our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. Amen

- **Connect**

Questions of the day:

If you could sit down and conduct an interview with any individual from human history- who would you want to interview and why?

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Let's get current! Here you'll find all the important things your community should know about! It could be logistical, upcoming events, or just general church-wide things happening in the life of Fellowship. We commit to keeping you in the know.

Next week begins the first week of Advent- our annual series preparing for the celebration of Jesus' birth! As the Christmas season approaches, consider what it would look like to both serve and celebrate with your group before the year ends.

Throughout our advent series we will be using the book *Advent and Christmas Wisdom* by Henri Nouwen as a devotional and discussion guide. You can buy this book at the connect center, or order it online anywhere books are sold.

3. GO DEEPER CHECK-IN

Beyond the songs and sermons of our services, we invite followers of Jesus into a weekly rhythm of personally spending time with Him and enjoying His love. This section is designed to give you a communal space to check-in with each other about the fruit of your personal practice. Feel free to use the weekly Go Deeper Guide on the website if you need support, but if you have your own rhythm, these questions will still apply.

- What did you enjoy the most about your personal devotion time this past week? What challenged you the most?
- Was there a moment when you felt God's love or delight this past week? Share the experience if you're willing.
- What did you learn about yourself or your relationship with God this past week?
- How can this community support or encourage you in your faithfulness in following Jesus over the next week?

4. READ THE PASSAGE

1 Meanwhile Boaz went up to the town gate and sat down there just as the guardian-redeemer he had mentioned came along. Boaz said, "Come over here, my friend, and sit down." So he went over and sat down.

2 Boaz took ten of the elders of the town and said, "Sit here," and they did so. **3** Then he said to the guardian-redeemer, "Naomi, who has come back from Moab, is selling the piece of land that belonged to our relative Elimelek. **4** I thought I should bring the matter to your attention and suggest that you buy it in the presence of these seated here and in the presence of the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, do so. But if you will not, tell me, so I will know. For no one has the right to do it except you, and I am next in line."

"I will redeem it," he said.

5 Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the land from Naomi, you also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the dead man's widow, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property."

6 At this, the guardian-redeemer said, "Then I cannot redeem it because I might endanger my own estate. You redeem it yourself. I cannot do it."

7 (Now in earlier times in Israel, for the redemption and transfer of property to become final, one party took off his sandal and gave it to the other. This was the method of legalizing transactions in Israel.) **8** So the guardian-redeemer said to Boaz, "Buy it yourself." And he removed his sandal.

9 Then Boaz announced to the elders and all the people, "Today you are witnesses that I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelek, Kilion and Mahlon. **10** I have also acquired Ruth the Moabite, Mahlon's widow, as my wife, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property, so that his name will not disappear from among his family or from his hometown. Today you are witnesses!"

11 Then the elders and all the people at the gate said, "We are witnesses. May the Lord make the woman who is coming into your home like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the family of Israel. May you have standing in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem. **12** Through the offspring the Lord gives you by this young woman, may your family be like that of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah."

13 So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When he made love to her, the Lord enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son. **14** The women said to Naomi: "Praise be to the Lord, who this day has not left you without a guardian-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel! **15** He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. For your daughter-in-law, who loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has given him birth."

16 Then Naomi took the child in her arms and cared for him. **17** The women living there said, "Naomi has a son!" And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

18 This, then, is the family line of Perez: Perez was the father of Hezron, **19** Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab, **20** Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, **21** Salmon the father of Boaz, Boaz the father of Obed, **22** Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David.

Ruth 4:1-22

5. ENGAGE - VIDEO & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Watch the LifeGroup video, then use these questions to help guide your group conversation. Feel free to use one or all of them. Trust the flow of the conversation based on what the Holy Spirit is doing in your unique group.

Reflective Question from Video

Out of everything that you have been through, what is one thing that you know to be true about God? Take a minute to think- and then share with the group.

Observation Questions

What is something that jumps out at you from Ruth 4? Does anything surprise you?

Interpretation Question

As the story ends, the author reveals that Ruth is the great grandmother of King David. Why do you think this is significant? Does this change the way that you view Ruth's story? Why or why not?

Reflection Questions

In this chapter we see the beautiful fulfillment in Ruth and Naomi's story. They are both brought into Boaz's family, and the Lord enables Ruth to conceive a child, connecting her to the bloodline of Jesus! Can you think

of a time in your life where although you felt hopeless, the Lord carried you out of your difficulty and into a season of blessing? Even if it is a small example, that is okay!

Application Questions

Over the past few weeks in the book of Ruth, we've learned that even in moments of weakness and desperation- there is hope. Even if we do not see it or do not understand it, we can trust that God is weaving together a story of redemption and hope for us, which requires time, patience, and our own participation. Even if this feels like a season of hardship- try to think of one way that the Lord has unexpectedly blessed you recently. Share with the group!

6. PRAY

Wrap up your group session in prayer. Throughout your group journey a regular rhythm of prayer is so important! It can also look very different from week to week, so we encourage you to discuss how it could be expressed in your meeting. Make sure you balance opportunities to both pray for individual requests as well as the Kingdom of God at large. Consider having someone be responsible for keeping track of a group prayer journal. We'll also make some recommendations from time to time.

Lord, thank you for all that you have taught us through Ruth and Naomi's story over the past few weeks. Thank you for being a God that never leaves or forsakes us, even in periods of challenge and difficulty. Thank you for those things that you have blessed us with, and all of those things that you will bless us with. Help us to see and identify the ways that you are weaving and redeeming our stories together. Amen.

