

Sticky Group Discussion Questions for Sunday, December 7, 2014

Ruth's Decision

Ruth 1

1. This Advent season we're reading a love story -- the story of Ruth. This story reminds us that salvation is not a cold, heartless transaction. No, God saves us because he loves us !

Begin your group session by reading and sharing your thoughts about these verses which tell of God's love :

1 John 4:7-11 / Ephesians 5:1-2 / John 15:9 / John 15:12-13

2. The key verse for the book is Ruth 4:14. Read this verse and discuss the following :

- **What is a redeemer ?**
- **What does it mean to redeem something (or someone) ?**

Read about the Israelite laws of redemption which serve as a background to the story of Ruth. Discuss their significance to the story, and also how this part of Israel's law pictures the coming Savior.

- Leviticus 25:25
- Leviticus 25:47-49
- Deuteronomy 25:5-6

3. The book of Ruth is the only book in the Old Testament named for a Gentile. Why do you think God devoted an entire book of His word to a Gentile woman from Moab ?

God honored Ruth by making her the grand-grandmother of King David and an ancestor of Jesus the Messiah. What conclusions do you draw from this regarding God's attitude toward issues of race, culture, and ethnicity ?

4. Ruth was driven by sorrow, loss, and adversity to follow Naomi to a new land, a new faith, and a new way of life. Looking back over your life, can you see instances where God used adversity to lead you to a new, positive place in life ? Explain your answer.

5. Re-read Ruth 1:16-17, the key to chapter 1. Ruth's decision was actually a 7-part decision :

- **Where you go, I will go.**
- **Where you lodge, I will lodge.**
- **Your people will be my people.**
- **Your God will be my God.**
- **Where you die, I will die.**
- **I want to be buried in your land.**
- **Nothing but death will separate us.**

What do you think drove Ruth to this level of devotion to Naomi ?

6. What about your own decisions ?

- **Have you decided that God is king ? ("Elimelech" means "God is king.") How is God king in your life ?**
- **Have you decided that there is pleasure in God's presence and in God's ways ? ("Naomi" means "pleasant.") How are God's ways pleasant to you ?**
- **Have you decided there is true love in God's presence. (Ruth is a love story.) How have you personally experienced God's love ?**
- **Have you decided you will go with, follow, lodge with, worship, and trust God ? What challenges do you expect to experience along the way ?**