

the WORD among us

simply RUTH

waiting on God's timing

a leader's guide.

simple church

a very old new idea



TM

simplifying life
re-prioritizing life
cultivating a deeper walk with God

All Bible verses are taken from the New Living Translation unless otherwise indicated.

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You may copy this resource, or any part of it, to build up God's Kingdom.
Please include the following reference information:

Additional Bible Study Leader's Guides are available at:
www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com

the WORD among us
simply RUTH

Outline

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the WORD among us

“the WORD among us” series is different. These leader's guides capture real group life, where secular and unchurched people's lives are being changed.

People need the Everlasting Gospel of Jesus Christ.

People also need safe and authentic friendship with Christians. Most unchurched people will not seek you or your group's friendship. You will have to intentionally seek their friendship.

May God bless you as you simplify and re-prioritize your life, creating time to "spend" with unchurched people.

how to use this leader's guide

This Leader's guide assumes you have:

1. read through the www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com web page.
2. completed the online Phase One and Phase Two Simple Church training.
3. Printed the business card for your group to use to invite people to come. These cards are found at: <http://www.simplechurchathome.com/Downloads.html>

title

outline

Bible story reference

Message of Hope: Have this idea crystal-clear in your mind. This is what you want people to remember for the rest of the week.

Leader's Tip: These tips show up here and there.

Planning Ahead: These include items coming in future weeks that you may need to plan for ahead of time.

Needed for Today: Additional items that you will need.

The Basic 8: Oatmeal Can, Connection Card envelopes, Post card invitation cards, Taco Salad sign up sheet, extra New Living Translation Bibles, Child Safety Poster (to post), Blessing List, and Link to online Simple Church Weekly Report Form (This is the Details Coordinator's responsibility).

Welcome: We focus on three things: connecting with God, connecting with each other, and serving our world. In other words, this group does not exist for us. Someone invited you, and now it is your turn to invite others.

Before we introduce ourselves, let's remember:

- This is a safe place to grow spiritually.
- We are a wide diversity of people—new Christians, long-time Christians, and people who are thinking about becoming Christians. We are glad all of you are here.
- You will notice we do not use a bunch of fancy religious language.
- We do not try to impress people with how much Bible quoting we can do. We are common people.
- Please be sensitive so that everyone has opportunity to share and contribute.
- Please turn cell phones off, or on “vibrate.”

Check-In:

1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...*[insert rotation question]*?

Rotation Questions: Rotate through the following three questions: (Check-In is not used in Growth Groups)

Week 1: How are you simplifying your life?

Week 2: How are you re-prioritizing your life?

Week 3: What would it take to cultivate a deeper relationship with God.

Week 4: How are you simplifying your life?

Week 5: etc.

Children's Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments: *(This part is hard for church people. They will have to learn how to be comfortable with "quiet space." People will need time to think and encouragement to share. Learn to let Jesus be the leader of your group and see how and where He leads. This time is often a mixture of sharing, singing, praying when people share prayer requests, reflection, praise, joy, and thankfulness to God. This is body-life.)*

- Where did you see God at work this past week?
- How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
- How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
- Sing, share meaningful Bible verses, rejoice in God's goodness.
- Prayer comes naturally and spontaneously during this time.

Kick-off Question: *(short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)* text

page 2 of a typical leaders guide for a given week

Bridge: The one sentence transitions the group from the Kick-Off Question to opening their Bibles.

Read the Bible Story from a modern translation: Bible story reference
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible during our discussion.)

Listening & Learning Questions: *(50% of your study time)*

Some helpful pointers

1. Remember, there are no "right answers" to relational Bible study questions.
2. You DO NOT have to "accomplish" all the the questions listed. Use them as a resource to select from during your discussion.
3. Spend a maximum of 50% of your Bible study time on Listening & Learning Questions.
4. Affirm each answer, no matter what is said, by saying something like, "Excellent, someone else;" "Thanks for sharing, someone else;" "Good, someone else;" "How about the rest of you, what do you think?"

5. Did you catch the common denominator, "someone else"? You are always affirming and always inviting others to give input.
6. If someone gets off-focus, I will say (after they have stopped talking), "Thanks. How about someone else?" then restate the question to refocus the discussion.

Heart & Healing Questions: *(50% of your study time)*

Some helpful pointers

1. Spend a minimum of 50% of your time on Heart Questions.
2. These questions are designed to invite people to share portions of their life story as it engages with the Bible study.
3. This is not a doctrinal study. This is not a life application study. It is a relational Bible study. There is a big difference.
4. At appropriate times, affirm confidentiality and offer reassurance that this is a safe place to share and grow spiritually.

Wrap Up:

1. Remember "this group does not exist for us. We are blessed by being part of this group, but it exists for those who are not yet here."
2. Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
3. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
4. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch

1. Keep it simple.
2. Taco Salad (Mexican Haystack).
3. Hostess (one of the CORE 4) provides the beans.
4. During lunch have Taco Salad sign-up sheet available.

alone

[outline](#)

Ruth 1:1-5

Message of Hope: When you feel alone in life, God is still with you.

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Check-In:

1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...*[insert rotation question]*?

Children's Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:

- Where did you see God at work this past week?
- How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
- How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
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Kick-off Question: *(short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)*
Who are a couple people you look to for guidance and help in life?

Bridge: Today's story is about a sad turn of events that leave a mother and her two daughter-in-laws alone in a foreign land. Yet, we will see over the coming weeks that God is still close to them and with them.

Read the Bible Story from a modern translation: Ruth 1:1-5.

(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: *(50% of your study time)*

1. Any idea who are these “judges” who rule Israel?
Leader's Tip: The book that comes before Ruth is called Judges. It tells the story of leaders who rescued Israel time after time during a 300 year time period when the people were unfaithful to God.
2. In our world today, who do you think would function most like the judges in our culture?
3. This story happens about 3000 years ago, about 1100 BC. How do you think most people made a living and got food to eat?
4. 3000 years ago, what do you think was the role of women in society and how does this complicate the fact that Ruth and her two daughters are not without their husbands?

Heart & Healing Questions: *(50% of your study time)*

1. What do you think you would do with your family if there was a sever famine today?
2. If you were in a foreign land and all your immediate family died, what do you think you would do?
3. Read verse 5 again. When have you felt all alone in life?
4. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
5. Remember, **when you feel alone in life, God is still with you.** How can this group pray for you this next week?

Wrap Up:

1. Remember “this group does not exist for us. We are blessed by being part of this group, but it exists for those who are not yet here.”
2. Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
3. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
4. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch

why God?

[outline](#)

Ruth 1:6-13

Message of Hope: God is still God during the good times and the bad times.

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Check-In:

1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...*[insert rotation question]*?

Children's Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:

- Where did you see God at work this past week?
- How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
- How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
- Sing, share meaningful Bible verses, rejoice in God's goodness.
- Prayer comes naturally and spontaneously during this time.

Kick-off Question: *(short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)*

This is a yes or no question. Have you wrestled with this question: Why do bad things happen to good people?

Bridge: Today's story is going to tackle some very difficult questions – questions that maybe people have not wrestled with yet. But today, that is about to change. So let's dig in and tackle some difficult questions.

Read the Bible Story from a modern translation: Ruth 1:6-13.

(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: *(50% of your study time)*

1. Why do you think Naomi would attribute both good and bad crops to God.
2. Why does Naomi assume her daughter-in-laws would go with her?
3. Read verse 8 again. Why would Naomi wait until they are on their trip to encourage her daughter-in-laws to go back to their mother's home?
4. What cultural practices might there be that would make verse 12 and 13 make sense?
5. There seems to be plenty of evidence in this story to suggest that God has raised his fist against Naomi, but is there any evidence that might suggest that God has not raised his fist against her?
6. It seems that Naomi believes that all things, both good and bad come from God. How is this possible?
7. Most of the time people don't have a problem with the “good” coming from God, so what is the difference between all “bad” coming from God, and God allowing “bad” to happen even though it comes from another source like Satan?

Heart & Healing Questions: *(50% of your study time)*

1. In today's world we may not think in terms that God blesses in terms of good crops, but in what other ways have you seen God blessing His people who obey and follow Him?
2. Have you ever felt like God was raising his fist at you? What happened?
3. How do you make sense of the idea that God is ultimately responsible for all the good and bad in this world even though God Himself does not “do” the bad things?
4. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
5. Remember, **message of hope. God is still God during the good times and the bad times.** How can this group pray for you this next week?

Wrap Up:

1. Remember “this group does not exist for us. We are blessed by being part of this group, but it exists for those who are not yet here.”
2. Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
3. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
4. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch

choice

[outline](#)

Ruth 1:14-22

Message of Hope: God will always give you the freedom to choose. He does not force anyone.

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Check-In:

1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...*[insert rotation question]*?

Children's Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:

- Where did you see God at work this past week?
- How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
- How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
- Sing, share meaningful Bible verses, rejoice in God's goodness.
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Kick-off Question: *(short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)*
What is a choice you wish you had made differently?

Bridge: Today's story is about personal choice. Have you ever heard it said, “choices make choices for you.” This works both ways – for the good and for the bad. So let's explore how to make good choices that put us in good situations.

Read the Bible Story from a modern translation: Ruth 1:14-22.

(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: *(50% of your study time)*

1. Why do you think Naomi would, who believes and follows God, encourage Ruth to return to “her gods”? This seems out of character.
2. What do you think motivates Ruth to leave her people, her sister, and her gods and take on a whole new identity - a new people, and new family, and a new God?
3. Read verse 20-21 again. What could have been some of the reasons why Naomi and her husband left their people in the first place?
4. Last week's study spent quite a bit of time on questions concerning both good and bad coming from God. In verse 21, Naomi again credits God for both the good and the bad. What additional thoughts or insights do you have about this?
5. Why is freedom of choice so important?

Heart & Healing Questions: *(50% of your study time)*

1. When have you been encouraged or tempted to return to “old gods” in your life?
2. When is a time when you have left “old friends or old gods” and made a new start?
3. Have you ever tried to talk someone out of making a good or bad decision? What happened?
4. Have you ever made a right decision that someone else did not like, so they tried to make your life miserable for you? How did you stand strong during the difficult times?
5. When has another person joined you in making some new start choices in life?
6. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
7. Remember, **God will always give you the freedom to choose. He does not force anyone.** How can this group pray for you this next week?

Wrap Up:

1. Remember “this group does not exist for us. We are blessed by being part of this group, but it exists for those who are not yet here.”
2. Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
3. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
4. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch

kindness comes back

[outline](#)

Ruth 2:1-13

Message of Hope: Kindness, with no strings attached, will come back to you.

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Check-In:

1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...*[insert rotation question]*?

Children's Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:

- Where did you see God at work this past week?
- How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
- How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
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Kick-off Question: *(short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)*

When has someone gone way beyond what would be expected and shown you exceptional kindness?

Bridge: In today's world it seems like people are much more concerned about themselves than other people. Today's story shows some amazing acts of kindness. At first glance it appears that this kindness might have strings attached, but you decide if it is real or fake.

Read the Bible Story from a modern translation: Ruth 2:1-13.

(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: *(50% of your study time)*

1. What could verse 2 tell us about Ruth and Naomi's financial condition?
2. With what we have learned about Boaz in this story so far, why do you think he asks about Ruth in verse 5?
3. Read verses 8-9 again. Why does Boaz seem to go overboard in his kindness to Ruth?
4. What evidence do we find in this story that suggests Boaz has wholesome, upright and pure motives for his kindness to Ruth? In other words, that he is not romantically perusing Ruth?
5. What clues are in this story that would tell us if Ruth knows or does not know the family connections to Boaz?

Heart & Healing Questions: *(50% of your study time)*

1. How do you know if the kindness you give to others has selfish strings attached? In other words, how do you know if you are being kind to get something from the other person?
2. When did you miss an opportunity to show authentic kindness to someone?
3. When others have been kind to you, how do you go about passing on the kindness you receive to others?
4. What kind of things keep you from initiating kindness to others?
5. This next week who is someone that you can go beyond what would be expected and show exceptional kindness? What do you have in mind?
6. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
7. Remember, **kindness with no strings attached, will come back to you.** How can this group pray for you this next week?

Wrap Up:

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4. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch

compassionate kindness

[outline](#)

Ruth 2:14-23

Message of Hope: Compassionate kindness to others will bring you the biggest blessing.

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God Moments:

- Where did you see God at work this past week?
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Kick-off Question: *(short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)*

When you hear the words “compassionate kindness” what comes to your mind?

Bridge: Today's story is about compassionate kindness. In today's world, acts of kindness come in various sizes, shapes, and sometimes happen with a variety of motives and degrees of accountability. Even though some of today's questions might be a bit sensitive to discuss in a group setting, let's remember to be very compassionate as we explore this story together.

Read the Bible Story [from a modern translation](#): Ruth 2:14-23.

(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: *(50% of your study time)*

1. Last week we explored possible reasons why Boaz was being so kind to Ruth. In today's story what additional clues might we find as to why Boaz continues to single Ruth out with his kindness?
2. Why do you think Ruth, in verse 20, adds the comment, "as well as to your dead husband"?
3. Verse 20 talks about "family redeemers". Does anyone have any commentary notes in their Bible that might help us better understand what a family redeemer is?

Leader's Tips: The nearest male relative, was to help extended family who fell into economic difficulty.

4. How did this system raise or lower the importance of making good financial decisions?
5. How do you think accountability played into the family redeemer relationship.

Heart & Healing Questions: *(50% of your study time)*

1. In today's world, family redeemers may or may not be family. Who are the people and/or organizations that have functioned as a family redeemer during your life?
2. In what ways have you functioned as a family redeemer for someone?
3. This next question can be sensitive. So let's be very sensitive, loving, and extra compassionate as we talk about it. When you were helping someone, what role did accountability play in the process?
4. What is an area of your life where you sense God is inviting you to compassionately help someone even if it might be an inconvenience?
5. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
6. Remember, compassionate **kindness will bring you the biggest blessing**. How can this group pray for you this next week?

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Lunch

security

[outline](#)

Ruth 3:1-18

Message of Hope: God designed family to help each other.

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Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:

- Where did you see God at work this past week?
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Kick-off Question: *(short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)*
What provides you with a sense of security?

Bridge: Today's story is about a very strange way of providing security – at least it is strange to our modern ears. But non-the-less it worked very well. So let's have a look and read today's story.

Read the Bible Story from a modern translation: Ruth 3:1-18.

(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: *(50% of your study time)*

1. Why do you think Naomi is taking the responsibility to find Ruth a provider?
2. What might be the differences, if any, between a provider and a husband?
3. Read verse 3 again. Naomi seems to have specific intentions for Ruth. How might this fit with the responsibilities of a “family redeemer.”
4. What roll do you think accountability played in the “family redeemer” system?
5. In verse 10, how has Ruth's actions shown high family loyalty?
6. Ruth has a reputation in town of being a virtuous woman. How would we describe the character qualities of a virtuous woman?
7. What virtuous characteristics do we see in Boaz?

Heart & Healing Questions: *(50% of your study time)*

1. If you are married, have been married, or might get married in the future, what role did or should, your parents play in the choice of your spouse?
2. If you have or were to lose your spouse, where would you or did you turn for help?
3. It seems that in today's world the government has replaced the “family redeemer” when it comes to providing for people. What do you see as the pros and cons of a government based system?
4. What roll does or should accountability play in today's helping systems?
5. In what ways are you personally leaving your comfort zone to help people?
6. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
7. Remember, **God designed family to help each other**. How can this group pray for you this next week?

Wrap Up:

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4. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch

city gate witnesses

[outline](#)

Ruth 4:1-12

Message of Hope: God send people to help us so that we can pass on the blessing and help others.

The Basic 8: Oatmeal Can, Connection Card envelopes, Post card invitation cards, Taco Salad sign up sheet, extra New Living Translation Bibles, Child Safety Poster (to post), Blessing List, and Link to online Simple Church Weekly Report Form (This is the Details Coordinator's responsibility).

Welcome: We focus on three things: connecting with God, connecting with each other, and serving our world. In other words, this group does not exist for us. Someone invited you, and now it is your turn to invite others.

Setting the Context:

- This is a safe place to grow spiritually.
- We are a wide diversity of people. We are glad all of you are here.
- You will notice we do not use a bunch of fancy religious language.
- We do not try to impress people with how much Bible quoting we can do. We are common people.
- Encourage those who like to talk to give a opportunity for everyone to participate.

Check-In:

1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...*[insert rotation question]*?

Children's Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:

- Where did you see God at work this past week?
- How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
- How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
- Sing, share meaningful Bible verses, rejoice in God's goodness.
- Prayer comes naturally and spontaneously during this time.

Kick-off Question: *(short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)*

What do you think is the difference between dependence, independence, and inter-dependence?

Bridge: Today's story is a story of love and blessing. This story also is an example of people making right decisions because it is the right thing to do. But this story will also challenge us with a high level of accountability.

Read the Bible Story from a modern translation: Ruth 4:1-12.

(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: *(50% of your study time)*

1. The first time around, verses 1-4, why do you think Boaz only mentions the land and says nothing about the marriage responsibilities in verses 5?
2. How were these two family redeemers functioning or not functioning in the true spirit of the purpose of family redeemers?
3. Even though Naomi is selling the land, why is she not included in this transaction?
4. Each culture develops their own legal system. As we compare the legal system in this story with our culture's legal system for a similar transaction, what pros and cons do we notice in both systems?
5. The city gate witnesses do more than just witness this transaction, they also offer a special blessing. What is this blessing about?
6. This story does not tell us, but what do you think the role of "the witness" should be when one of the parties does not uphold their end of the transaction?

Heart & Healing Questions: *(50% of your study time)*

1. When has someone asked for a special blessing on your life?
2. If you were to ask God to bless someone's life, who would it be and what would you like to ask for?
3. Who is someone that God has sent into your life to help you in some very meaningful ways? How might God be inviting you to step into someone's life and intentionally help someone?
4. When has a "city gate witness" held you accountable for a transaction or promise you made to someone else?
5. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
6. Remember, **God sends people to help us so that we can pass on the blessing and help others.** How can this group pray for you this next week?

Wrap Up:

1. Remember "this group does not exist for us. We are blessed by being part of this group, but it exists for those who are not yet here."
2. Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
3. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
4. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch

family redeemer

[outline](#)

Ruth 4:13-22

Message of Hope: Waiting patiently on the Lord is often hard for us, but it is worth the wait.

Planning Ahead: *What book of the Bible should we start studying next week.* [Click here](#) to see some options

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Children's Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:

- Where did you see God at work this past week?
- How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
- How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
- Sing, share meaningful Bible verses, rejoice in God's goodness.
- Prayer comes naturally and spontaneously during this time.

Kick-off Question: *(short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)*

If people were to remember one thing about your life, what would you hope it would be?

Bridge: Today's story ends as one of those happily-ever-after stories, but you might notice that the author of Ruth does not make any spiritual applications. We the readers are left to connect the dots as we reflect on the purpose of this story. So as this story comes to an end, try to understand why this story was recorded in history and included in the Bible.

Read the Bible Story [from a modern translation](#): Ruth 4:13-22.

(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: *(50% of your study time)*

1. Why do you think this story ends with the birth of Ruth's son when it could have ended in so many other ways?
2. Why do you think the Lord is given credit for making it possible for Ruth to get pregnant?
3. Read verse 14 again. Why is the focus on Naomi instead of Ruth who gave birth to baby Obed?
4. In verses 16 and 17 it sounds like Obed belongs to Naomi. How do you make sense of this?
5. What are the possible reasons why verses 18-22 are included?
6. The author of this book wrote it for a reason. What lessons do you think the author hopes we learn from this story?

Heart & Healing Questions: *(50% of your study time)*

1. Who do you admire most in this story: Boaz, Ruth, Naomi, Obed the baby boy, or the women of the town? Why?
2. What part of today's story or the entire book of Ruth has been hard to understand?
3. If the women of the town were going to praise God for something that had happened in your life, what do you think they would talk about?
4. Who, in your life, has been "better to you than 7 sons" (verse 15)?
5. How has God functioned as a family redeemer in your life?
6. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
7. Remember, **waiting patiently on the Lord is often hard for us, but it is worth the wait.** How can this group pray for you this next week?
8. ***What book of the Bible should we start studying next week?***

Wrap Up:

1. Remember "this group does not exist for us. We are blessed by being part of this group, but it exists for those who are not yet here."
2. Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
3. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
4. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch

template

[outline](#)

Ruth ??:??

Message of Hope: text

Leader's Tip: text

Planning Ahead: text

Needed for Today: text

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- Prayer comes naturally and spontaneously during this time.

Kick-off Question: *(short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)*
text?

Bridge: Today's story

Read the Bible Story from a modern translation: Ruth ?:??.

(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: *(50% of your study time)*

1. text

Heart & Healing Questions: *(50% of your study time)*

1. text
2. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
3. Remember, **message of hope**. How can this group pray for you this next week?

Wrap Up:

1. Remember “this group does not exist for us. We are blessed by being part of this group, but it exists for those who are not yet here.”
2. Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
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4. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch