

simply

RUTH

waiting on God's timing

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

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

The following people contributed to this study guide.

W. Milton Adams
Roseann Metrisko
Cynthia Stigora
Darren Yates
Shari Ziesmer

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

More studies available at
www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com

Simply RUTH

Updated November 12, 2020

Outline

The Word Among Us
How to Use This Leader's Guide

1. [Alone](#), 1:1-5
2. [Why God?](#) 1:6-13
3. [Choice](#), 1:14-22
4. [Kindness Comes Back](#), 2:1-13
5. [Compassionate Kindness](#), 2:14-23
6. [Security](#), 3:1-18
7. [City Gate Witnesses](#), 4:1-12
8. [Family Redeemer](#), 4:13-22

The WORD Among Us

The [Simply Series](#) is a different kind of Bible study. It is not doctrine or life application. It is relational, which means there are no right or wrong answers to the questions in this facilitator's guide.

Relational Bible studies focus on building relationships with God and each other. They create a space for the WORD among us to wash over us, plant seeds in our lives, and change us by the transforming grace of the Holy Spirit.

Relational Bible studies give everyone, no matter what their perspective or depth of Bible knowledge, space to share and contribute to the dialogue as we journey together. They help us discover how our personal story intersects with the Bible story.

These guides are designed to facilitate real and authentic dialogue in such a way that secular and unchurched Truth seekers come away saying, "This is different! This is real."

People need the Everlasting Gospel. Simple Church is about creating a space for Truth seekers to journey together.

May God bless you as you simplify and re-prioritize your life, creating time to "spend" with Truth seekers from all walks of life.

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 Simple Church training.

Title

outline

Bible story reference will be listed here.

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.

Helpful Tip: These tips show up here and there.

The Basic 8: These are covered in the [free online training](#).

1. Collection Box (explained in PhaseONE training videos)
2. Connection Card Envelopes
3. Business Cards
4. Taco Salad Sign-up Sheet
5. A variety of extra Bible translations.
6. Child Safety Poster
7. Blessing Board
8. Email link to online Simple Church Weekly Summary Form (When officially launched this is emailed to your Details Coordinator every Sunday.)

Welcome: We are glad everyone is here. 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.

Before we introduce ourselves, let's remember:

- This is a safe place to grow spiritually.
- We are a wide diversity of Truth seekers. 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 everyone has an opportunity to share and contribute.
- Cell phones should be put on "vibrate," or turned off.

Check-In:

1. What is your first name?
2. What is a high-light or a low-light (a headline) from your week?
3. [*Insert rotation question for the week.*]

Rotation Questions: Rotate through the following three questions:

Week 1: How would you like to simplify your life?

Week 2: How would you like to re-prioritize your life?

Week 3: How would you like to cultivate a deeper relationship with God.

Week 4: How would you like to simplify your life?

Week 5: etc.

At the end of check-in ask the person who facilitated to choose another adult to facilitate check-in next week. Anyone can facilitate check-in. It does not have to be a CORE leader.

Children's Check-In Questions: How did you help Mommy or Daddy this week? (Or they can answer the adult questions.)

The Quiz: A child asks three questions. They randomly choose from the check-in questions people just answered. Ask everyone to raise their hands and the child picks someone to answer the questions.

For example:

1. What was his (pointing to the person) high-light for the week?
2. What was her name (pointing to the person)?
3. How did she want to simplify her life?

At the end of the quiz ask the child who facilitated to choose another child to facilitate the quiz next week.

This is what page 2 of a typical leader's guide for a given week actually looks like.

Facilitator's Directions:

1. *Talk as little as possible, encourage others to share, and avoid a monologue.*
2. Cut on the dotted lines. Distribute questions around the circle. (✂-----)
3. Keep this top part and the bottom part (question D) of this page.
4. Reassure people they do not have to answer the questions, just read it for us.
5. At the end, choose someone to facilitate the questions for next week.

Kick-off Question: (60 second answers, facilitator goes first)

Bridge: This transitions the group from the Kick-off Question into the Bible story.

Read the Bible Story from two different translations: Bible story reference will be listed here. (Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible during our discussion.)

Digging Questions: (50% of your study time)

Some helpful pointers for digging questions:

- Remember: there are no "right answers" to relational Bible study questions. Help people contribute their perspective to the dialogue.

- You DO NOT have to "accomplish" all the questions listed. Use them as a resource from which to select during your discussion.
- Spend a maximum of 50% of your Bible study time on these questions.
- 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".
- Did you catch the common denominator, "someone else"? You are always affirming and always inviting others to give input.
- If someone gets off-focus, simply say (after they have stopped talking), "What was the question? Let's read it again."

Sharing Questions: (50% of your study time)

Some helpful pointers:

- Spend a minimum of 50% of your time on these questions.
- These questions are designed to invite people to share portions of their life story as it interacts with the Bible study.
- At appropriate times affirm confidentiality and offer reassurance that this is a safe place to share and grow spiritually.

Group Prayer:

1. We are blessed by being a part of this group, yet it exists for those who are not yet here.
2. Put an [Empty Chair](#) in the middle of your prayer circle. Pray for the people who are not yet here.
3. Close by saying the [Blessing Board](#) blessing together.

At the end of prayer, ask the person who facilitated to choose another adult to facilitate the questions for next week. Anyone can facilitate the questions. It does not have to be a CORE leader.

Lunch:

1. Keep it simple. Keep it easily reproducible.
2. Hostess (one of the CORE4) provides the beans.
3. During lunch have the [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.

The Basic 8 Simple Church Tools: Collection Box, Connection Card Envelopes, Business Cards, Taco Salad Sign-up Sheet, a variety of extra Bible translations, Child Safety Poster, Blessing Board, Summary Form (which is emailed to the Details Coordinator every Sunday).

Breakfast

Welcome: We are so glad that you are here today.

Setting the Context:

- We come from a variety of backgrounds and seek to create a safe place for Truth seekers to grow spiritually.
- You will notice that we try to avoid fancy religious language. We are common people.
- Let's encourage those who like to talk to give opportunity for everyone to participate.

Check-In:

1. What is your first name?
2. What is a high-light or a low-light (a headline) from your week?
3. [*Insert rotation question for the week.*]

At the end of check-in ask the person who facilitated to choose another adult to facilitate check-in next week. Anyone can facilitate check-in. It does not have to be a CORE leader.

Children's Check-In Questions: How did you help Mommy or Daddy this week? (Or they can answer the adult questions.)

The Quiz: A child asks three questions. They randomly choose from the check-in questions people just answered. Ask everyone to raise their hands and the child picks someone to answer the questions.

At the end of the quiz ask the child who facilitated to choose another child to facilitate the quiz next week.

Facilitator's Directions:

1. Talk as little as possible, encourage others to share, and avoid a monologue.
2. Cut on the dotted lines. Distribute questions around the circle. (✂-----)
3. Keep the top part and the bottom part (question D) of this page.
4. Reassure people they do not have to answer the questions, just read it for us.
5. At the end, choose someone to facilitate the questions for next week.

Kick-off Question: (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle)

Who are a few 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 daughters-in-law 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 two different translations: Ruth 1:1-5

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

✂-----

Digging 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 three-hundred-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 three thousand years ago around 1100 BC. How do you think most people made a living and obtained food to eat?

✂-----

4. Three thousand years ago what do you think the role of women in society was, and how did that complicate the fact that Ruth and her two daughters were without their husbands?

✂-----

Sharing Questions: (50% of your study time)

- A. On a personal note, what do you think you would do with your family if there was a severe famine today?

✂-----

- B. Read verse 5 again. When have you felt all alone in life?

✂-----

- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?

✂-----

- D. Remember: **When you feel alone in life, God is still with you.** How can this group pray for you this week?

Group Prayer:

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.

- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.

Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up sheet.

Why God?

outline

Ruth 1:6-13

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

The Basic 8 Simple Church Tools: Collection Box, Connection Card Envelopes, Business Cards, Taco Salad Sign-up Sheet, a variety of extra Bible translations, Child Safety Poster, Blessing Board, Summary Form (which is emailed to the Details Coordinator every Sunday).

Breakfast

Welcome: We are so glad that you are here today.

Setting the Context:

- We come from a variety of backgrounds and seek to create a safe place for Truth seekers to grow spiritually.
- You will notice that we try to avoid fancy religious language. We are common people.
- Let's encourage those who like to talk to give opportunity for everyone to participate.

Check-In:

1. What is your first name?
2. What is a high-light or a low-light (a headline) from your week?
3. [*Insert rotation question for the week.*]

At the end of check-in ask the person who facilitated to choose another adult to facilitate check-in next week. Anyone can facilitate check-in. It does not have to be a CORE leader.

Children's Check-In Questions: How did you help Mommy or Daddy this week? (Or they can answer the adult questions.)

The Quiz: A child asks three questions. They randomly choose from the check-in questions people just answered. Ask everyone to raise their hands and the child picks someone to answer the questions.

At the end of the quiz ask the child who facilitated to choose another child to facilitate the quiz next week.

Facilitator's Directions:

1. *Talk as little as possible, encourage others to share, and avoid a monologue.*
2. Cut on the dotted lines. Distribute questions around the circle. (✂-----)
3. Keep the top part and the bottom part (question D) of this page.
4. Reassure people they do not have to answer the questions, just read it for us.
5. At the end, choose someone to facilitate the questions for next week.

Kick-off Question: (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle)

This is a *yes* or *no* question. Have you wrestled with the 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 hard questions.

Read the Bible Story from two different translations: Ruth 1:6-13

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

✂-----

Digging Questions: (50% of your study time)

1. Why does Naomi assume her daughters-in-law would go with her, and then send them back?
✂-----
2. 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?
✂-----
3. It seems Naomi believes that all things, both good and bad come from God. How is this possible?
✂-----
4. Most of the time people don't have a problem with the *good* coming from God, but 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?
✂-----

Sharing Questions: (50% of your study time)

- A. On a personal note, have you ever felt like God was raising his fist at you? What happened?
✂-----
- B. 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?
✂-----
- C. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
✂-----
- D. Remember: **God is still God during the good times and the bad times.** How can this group pray for you this next week?

Group Prayer& Lunch:

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.

Choice

outline

Ruth 1:14-22

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

The Basic 8 Simple Church Tools: Collection Box, Connection Card Envelopes, Business Cards, Taco Salad Sign-up Sheet, a variety of extra Bible translations, Child Safety Poster, Blessing Board, Summary Form (which is emailed to the Details Coordinator every Sunday).

Breakfast

Welcome: We are so glad that you are here today.

Setting the Context:

- We come from a variety of backgrounds and seek to create a safe place for Truth seekers to grow spiritually.
- You will notice that we try to avoid fancy religious language. We are common people.
- Let's encourage those who like to talk to give opportunity for everyone to participate.

Check-In:

1. What is your first name?
2. What is a high-light or a low-light (a headline) from your week?
3. [*Insert rotation question for the week.*]

At the end of check-in ask the person who facilitated to choose another adult to facilitate check-in next week. Anyone can facilitate check-in. It does not have to be a CORE leader.

Children's Check-In Questions: How did you help Mommy or Daddy this week? (Or they can answer the adult questions.)

The Quiz: A child asks three questions. They randomly choose from the check-in questions people just answered. Ask everyone to raise their hands and the child picks someone to answer the questions.

At the end of the quiz ask the child who facilitated to choose another child to facilitate the quiz next week.

Facilitator's Directions:

1. Talk as little as possible, encourage others to share, and avoid a monologue.
2. Cut on the dotted lines. Distribute questions around the circle. (✂-----)
3. Keep the top part and the bottom part (question D) of this page.
4. Reassure people they do not have to answer the questions, just read it for us.
5. At the end, choose someone to facilitate the questions for next week.

Kick-off Question: (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle)

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 two different translations: Ruth 1:14-22

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

✂-----

Digging Questions: (50% of your study time)

1. Why do you think Naomi, who believes and follows God, encourages Ruth to return to “her gods”? Is this 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, a new family, and a new God?
✂-----
3. 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?
✂-----
4. Why is freedom of choice so important?
✂-----

Sharing Questions: (50% of your study time)

- A. On a personal note, have you ever tried to talk someone out of making a good or bad decision? What happened?
✂-----
- B. When was a time you have left “old friends” or “old gods” and made a new start?
✂-----
- C. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
✂-----
- D. 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?

Group Prayer:

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.

- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.

Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up sheet.

Kindness Comes Back

outline

Ruth 2:1-13

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

The Basic 8 Simple Church Tools: Collection Box, Connection Card Envelopes, Business Cards, Taco Salad Sign-up Sheet, a variety of extra Bible translations, Child Safety Poster, Blessing Board, Summary Form (which is emailed to the Details Coordinator every Sunday).

Breakfast

Welcome: We are so glad that you are here today.

Setting the Context:

- We come from a variety of backgrounds and seek to create a safe place for Truth seekers to grow spiritually.
- You will notice that we try to avoid fancy religious language. We are common people.
- Let's encourage those who like to talk to give opportunity for everyone to participate.

Check-In:

1. What is your first name?
2. What is a high-light or a low-light (a headline) from your week?
3. [*Insert rotation question for the week.*]

At the end of check-in ask the person who facilitated to choose another adult to facilitate check-in next week. Anyone can facilitate check-in. It does not have to be a CORE leader.

Children's Check-In Questions: How did you help Mommy or Daddy this week? (Or they can answer the adult questions.)

The Quiz: A child asks three questions. They randomly choose from the check-in questions people just answered. Ask everyone to raise their hands and the child picks someone to answer the questions.

At the end of the quiz ask the child who facilitated to choose another child to facilitate the quiz next week.

Facilitator's Directions:

1. Talk as little as possible, encourage others to share, and avoid a monologue.
2. Cut on the dotted lines. Distribute questions around the circle. (✂-----)
3. Keep the top part and the bottom part (question D) of this page.
4. Reassure people they do not have to answer the questions, just read it for us.
5. At the end, choose someone to facilitate the questions for next week.

Kick-off Question: (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle)

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 two different translations: Ruth 2:1-13

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

✂-----

Digging Questions: (50% of your study time)

1. What could verse 2 tell us about Ruth and Naomi's financial condition?
✂-----
2. Read verses 8 and 9 again. Why does Boaz seem to go overboard in his kindness to Ruth?
✂-----
3. 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?
✂-----
4. What clues are in this story that will tell us if Ruth knows or does not know the family connections to Boaz?
✂-----

Sharing Questions: (50% of your study time)

- A. On a personal note, what kinds of things keep you from initiating kindness to others?
✂-----
- B. 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 or just to give?
✂-----
- C. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
✂-----
- D. Remember: **Kindness with no strings attached, will come back to you.** How can this group pray for you this next week?

Group Prayer:

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.

Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up sheet.

Compassionate Kindness

outline

Ruth 2:14-23

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

The Basic 8 Simple Church Tools: Collection Box, Connection Card Envelopes, Business Cards, Taco Salad Sign-up Sheet, a variety of extra Bible translations, Child Safety Poster, Blessing Board, Summary Form (which is emailed to the Details Coordinator every Sunday).

Breakfast

Welcome: We are so glad that you are here today.

Setting the Context:

- We come from a variety of backgrounds and seek to create a safe place for Truth seekers to grow spiritually.
- You will notice that we try to avoid fancy religious language. We are common people.
- Let's encourage those who like to talk to give opportunity for everyone to participate.

Check-In:

1. What is your first name?
2. What is a high-light or a low-light (a headline) from your week?
3. [*Insert rotation question for the week.*]

At the end of check-in ask the person who facilitated to choose another adult to facilitate check-in next week. Anyone can facilitate check-in. It does not have to be a CORE leader.

Children's Check-In Questions: How did you help Mommy or Daddy this week? (Or they can answer the adult questions.)

The Quiz: A child asks three questions. They randomly choose from the check-in questions people just answered. Ask everyone to raise their hands and the child picks someone to answer the questions.

At the end of the quiz ask the child who facilitated to choose another child to facilitate the quiz next week.

Facilitator's Directions:

1. Talk as little as possible, encourage others to share, and avoid a monologue.
2. Cut on the dotted lines. Distribute questions around the circle. (✂-----)
3. Keep the top part and the bottom part (question D) of this page.
4. Reassure people they do not have to answer the questions, just read it for us.
5. At the end, choose someone to facilitate the questions for next week.

Kick-off Question: (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle)

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

Bridge: In today's world, acts of kindness come in various sizes, shapes, and sometimes happen with a variety of motives and degrees of accountability. Since 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 two different translations: Ruth 2:14-23

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

✂-----

Digging 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 Naomi, 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, and how do you think accountability played into the family redeemer relationship?

✂-----

Sharing Questions: (50% of your study time)

- A. In today's world, family redeemers may or may not be actual family. On a personal note, who are the people and/or organizations that have functioned as a family redeemer in your life? Or in what ways have you functioned as a family redeemer for someone?

✂-----

- B. What is an area of your life where you sense God inviting you to compassionately help someone even if it might be an inconvenience?

✂-----

- C. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?

✂-----

- D. Remember: **Compassionate kindness will bring you the biggest blessing.** How can this group pray for you this next week?

Group Prayer& Lunch:

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.

Security

outline

Ruth 3:1-18

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

The Basic 8 Simple Church Tools: Collection Box, Connection Card Envelopes, Business Cards, Taco Salad Sign-up Sheet, a variety of extra Bible translations, Child Safety Poster, Blessing Board, Summary Form (which is emailed to the Details Coordinator every Sunday).

Breakfast

Welcome: We are so glad that you are here today.

Setting the Context:

- We come from a variety of backgrounds and seek to create a safe place for Truth seekers to grow spiritually.
- You will notice that we try to avoid fancy religious language. We are common people.
- Let's encourage those who like to talk to give opportunity for everyone to participate.

Check-In:

1. What is your first name?
2. What is a high-light or a low-light (a headline) from your week?
3. [*Insert rotation question for the week.*]

At the end of check-in ask the person who facilitated to choose another adult to facilitate check-in next week. Anyone can facilitate check-in. It does not have to be a CORE leader.

Children's Check-In Questions: How did you help Mommy or Daddy this week? (Or they can answer the adult questions.)

The Quiz: A child asks three questions. They randomly choose from the check-in questions people just answered. Ask everyone to raise their hands and the child picks someone to answer the questions.

At the end of the quiz ask the child who facilitated to choose another child to facilitate the quiz next week.

Facilitator's Directions:

1. Talk as little as possible, encourage others to share, and avoid a monologue.
2. Cut on the dotted lines. Distribute questions around the circle. (✂-----)
3. Keep the top part and the bottom part (question D) of this page.
4. Reassure people they do not have to answer the questions, just read it for us.
5. At the end, choose someone to facilitate the questions for next week.

Kick-off Question: (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle)

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 nonetheless, it worked very well. So, let's have a look and read today's story.

Read the Bible Story from two different translations: Ruth 3:1-18

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

✂-----

Digging Questions: (50% of your study time)

1. Why do you think Naomi is taking the responsibility to find Ruth a provider?
✂-----
2. Read verse 3 again. Naomi seems to have specific intentions for Ruth. How might this fit with the responsibilities of a “family redeemer”? What might be the differences, if any, between a provider and a husband?
✂-----
3. What roll do you think accountability played in the “family redeemer” system?
✂-----
4. What virtuous characteristics do we see in Ruth? In Boaz?
✂-----

Sharing Questions: (50% of your study time)

- A. On a personal note, 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?
✂-----
- B. 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?
✂-----
- C. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
✂-----
- D. Remember: **God designed family to help each other.** How can this group pray for you this next week?

Group Prayer:

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.

Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up sheet.

City Gate Witnesses

outline

Ruth 4:1-12

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

The Basic 8 Simple Church Tools: Collection Box, Connection Card Envelopes, Business Cards, Taco Salad Sign-up Sheet, a variety of extra Bible translations, Child Safety Poster, Blessing Board, Summary Form (which is emailed to the Details Coordinator every Sunday).

Breakfast

Welcome: We are so glad that you are here today.

Setting the Context:

- We come from a variety of backgrounds and seek to create a safe place for Truth seekers to grow spiritually.
- You will notice that we try to avoid fancy religious language. We are common people.
- Let's encourage those who like to talk to give opportunity for everyone to participate.

Check-In:

1. What is your first name?
2. What is a high-light or a low-light (a headline) from your week?
3. [*Insert rotation question for the week.*]

At the end of check-in ask the person who facilitated to choose another adult to facilitate check-in next week. Anyone can facilitate check-in. It does not have to be a CORE leader.

Children's Check-In Questions: How did you help Mommy or Daddy this week? (Or they can answer the adult questions.)

The Quiz: A child asks three questions. They randomly choose from the check-in questions people just answered. Ask everyone to raise their hands and the child picks someone to answer the questions.

At the end of the quiz ask the child who facilitated to choose another child to facilitate the quiz next week.

Facilitator's Directions:

1. Talk as little as possible, encourage others to share, and avoid a monologue.
2. Cut on the dotted lines. Distribute questions around the circle. (✂-----)
3. Keep the top part and the bottom part (question D) of this page.
4. Reassure people they do not have to answer the questions, just read it for us.
5. At the end, choose someone to facilitate the questions for next week.

Kick-off Question: (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle)

What do you think is the difference between *dependence*, *independence*, and *interdependence*?

Bridge: Today's story is a story of love and blessing. It is also is an example of people making 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 two different translations: Ruth 4:1-12

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

✂-----

Digging Questions: (50% of your study time)

1. In verses 1-4, why do you think Boaz only mentions the land and says nothing about the marriage responsibilities spoken of in verse 5?
✂-----
2. How were these two family redeemers functioning or not functioning in the true spirit of the purpose of family redeemers?
✂-----
3. The city gate witnesses do more than just witness this transaction; they also offer a special blessing. What is this blessing about?
✂-----
4. 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?
✂-----

Sharing Questions: (50% of your study time)

- A. On a personal note, when has someone spoken a special blessing over your life?
✂-----
- B. Who is someone that God has sent into your life to help you in meaningful ways?
How might God be inviting you to step into someone’s life and intentionally help someone else?
✂-----
- C. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
✂-----
- D. 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?

Group Prayer:

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.

Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up sheet.

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.](#)

The Basic 8 Simple Church Tools: Collection Box, Connection Card Envelopes, Business Cards, Taco Salad Sign-up Sheet, a variety of extra Bible translations, Child Safety Poster, Blessing Board, Summary Form (which is emailed to the Details Coordinator every Sunday).

Breakfast

Welcome: We are so glad that you are here today.

Setting the Context:

- We come from a variety of backgrounds and seek to create a safe place for Truth seekers to grow spiritually.
- You will notice that we try to avoid fancy religious language. We are common people.
- Let's encourage those who like to talk to give opportunity for everyone to participate.

Check-In:

1. What is your first name?
2. What is a high-light or a low-light (a headline) from your week?
3. [*Insert rotation question for the week.*]

At the end of check-in ask the person who facilitated to choose another adult to facilitate check-in next week. Anyone can facilitate check-in. It does not have to be a CORE leader.

Children's Check-In Questions: How did you help Mommy or Daddy this week? (Or they can answer the adult questions.)

The Quiz: A child asks three questions. They randomly choose from the check-in questions people just answered. Ask everyone to raise their hands and the child picks someone to answer the questions.

At the end of the quiz ask the child who facilitated to choose another child to facilitate the quiz next week.

Facilitator's Directions:

1. Talk as little as possible, encourage others to share, and avoid a monologue.
2. Cut on the dotted lines. Distribute questions around the circle. (✂-----)
3. Keep the top part and the bottom part (question D) of this page.
4. Reassure people they do not have to answer the questions, just read it for us.
5. At the end, choose someone to facilitate the questions for next week.

Kick-off Question: (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle)

If people were to remember one thing about your life, what do 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 it was recorded in history and included in the Bible.

Read the Bible Story from two different translations: Ruth 4:13-22

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

✂-----

Digging 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, and why do you think the Lord is given credit for making it possible for Ruth to get pregnant?
✂-----
2. Read verse 14 again. Why is the focus on Naomi instead of Ruth, who gave birth to baby Obed? And in verses 16 and 17, it sounds like Obed belongs to Naomi. How do you make sense of this?
✂-----
3. What are the possible reasons why verses 18-22 are included?
✂-----
4. The author of this book wrote it for a reason. What lessons do you think the author hopes we learn from this story?
✂-----

Sharing Questions: (50% of your study time)

- A. On a personal note, who do you admire most in this story: Boaz, Ruth, Naomi, Obed—the baby boy, or the women of the town? Why?
✂-----
- B. How has God functioned as a family redeemer in your life?
✂-----
- C. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
✂-----
- D. 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?
- E. **Which book of the Bible should we start studying next week?**

Group Prayer & Lunch:

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.