



DISCUSSION GUIDE

RUTH – God’s Provision Unfolds

GETTING STARTED

What have been some common reactions you’ve had in response to prayers for God to provide, and either he did not provide in the way you hoped, or was slow to provide?

QUICK REACTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?

What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

In what way as a follower of Jesus have you seen that “disaster” in your life was not destiny?

How have you experienced “bitterness” in response to difficult circumstances in your life? How did you deal with it?

In what ways have you experienced “6 cups of barley” as a way that signified that God would continue to provide?

God often provides through people who follow his law (his moral commands in Scripture) and love...how have you seen this to be true? How can we fail in this area?

In what way is Christ ultimately our provision, our “kinsman redeemer”?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [Ruth 3]

(Yes, these questions can seem silly, however, good discussion and interpretation of the Bible begins with having a proper understanding of the basic facts; who, what, when, and where in the text.) Work through this quickly, the answers are fairly obvious.

What motivated Naomi to tell Ruth to go to Boaz? (3:1-2)

What specific instructions did Naomi give to Ruth? (3:1-4)

How did Naomi refer to Boaz, and how is this significant? (3:2)

How did Ruth respond to Naomi’s unusual request? (3:5)

How did Ruth answer Boaz when he discovered her at his feet? (3:8-9)

To what was Boaz referring when he said, “This kindness is greater than that which you showed earlier”? (3:10)

Why was Boaz willing to fulfill his obligation? (3:10-13)

What reputation did Ruth have in the town? (3:11)

What did Boaz tell Ruth to do? Why? (3:13-14)

What did Boaz do to protect Ruth’s good reputation? (3:13-14)

In what way did Boaz show kindness to Ruth’s mother-in-law? (3:15-17)

How did Naomi predict Boaz would handle the situation? (3:18)

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

What does Ruth's obedience to Naomi reveal about her character?

What does Boaz's willingness to fulfill his obligation reveal about him?

What positive character traits stand out in this story?

Judging from this passage, what does God want you to do when you cannot see the solution to a problem in your life?

What have you learned from this passage about the role mature Christian friends can play in your life?

What problem or challenge do you face in the next few weeks?

Who is a Christian friend you could rely on for wise advice?

APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?

What do you need to stop, start or do differently as a result of reading this passage?

How can we pray for each other?