



Share | Study | Serve | Support

SHARE (5-10 MINS)

- 1) How were the holidays for you?
- 2) Do you have any dreams, goals, changes, or resolutions for this next year?
- 3) What are you most looking forward to in this group this next season?

This may be a great opportunity to reiterate the values of this life group, things like consistency, confidentiality, making space for others to talk.

STUDY (ABOUT 30-45 MINS)

- 4) Read **Ruth 1:1-5, 15-22; 2:1-23**. What stands out from the passage or this weekend's sermon?
- 5) Read **Judges 21:25**. What does this tell us about the state of Israel at that time? Follow up with **Proverbs 14:12** and **21:2**.

Doing things in our own eyes means we don't care what God thinks and we don't care how our attitudes and actions impact others.

- 6) Discuss the differences between Ruth and Orpah. Which one do you relate to the most and why?
- 7) When is loyalty a good thing, a commendable thing? And when can loyalty be harmful and even destructive?

In our individualistic culture, it seems like generally speaking, we could use more loyalty. To people, family, to institutions, to our marriages, to our church. Maybe you've heard of the term "ghosting," where someone will completely cut off a relationship with someone and never tell them why. We often put ourselves first. So loyalty is such an important virtue. And yet, loyalty can become harmful when we excuse or put up with things that we shouldn't, when we participate in sin, when we don't hold people accountable, or when we "need to be needed" by others. When we enable others and don't help them grow. In this, "loyalty" isn't real loyalty because I'm using them to meet my unmet needs.

- 8) Read Leviticus 19:9-10. What stands out to you in who Boaz is? Why is his life inspiring to us?

Boaz sees and blesses his employees. He follows God's law when it comes to gleaning and helping the poor. He looks after Ruth (a foreigner) and blesses her over and above what God's law requires. He protects the vulnerable. He is kind and generous. He uses his influence, wealth, and strength to build a valuable business that serves his community in several ways. We'll see later that he has a role at the city gates (local governance). He is a pillar in the community who puts others first.

- 9) Where do you see God working in this story so far? How does this encourage you?

10) How would you like to grow personally in Christ-like love and loyalty (like we've seen in Ruth and Boaz)?

SUPPORT OPTIONAL SMALL GROUP TIME

We recommend that you break up into men/women groups for deeper discussion and prayer.

SERVING LEADERSHIP TIP

Thriving in LG's:

We all have the deep desire to be known. Each LG member desires to be understood and LG leaders would do well to seek to understand each of their group members. What makes each person tick? Discipleship requires a deeper level of connection than average relationships. In discipleship relationships, we need more than brief knowledge of our group members—we need a deep understanding of who they are. We must think of every person in our group as people with full stories, and we can approach getting to know them like getting to know a good book. We have found that one-on-one time (woman to woman, man to man) is the best way to foster this. What can I learn from him or her? How can I better lead or serve him or her? As we show value to those in our group, we have an opportunity to see their confidence grow as well as on-going transformation. Let's seek to Connect to Thrive!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mexico Parents' Meeting

- A mandatory meeting for students interested in Mexico Trip 2026
- Sun, Jan 25 @ 6pm - Downtown Worship Auditorium

RVCKids 2nd-5th Grade Winter Camp

- Fri, Mar 6 @ 5pm - Redwood Campus
- Register today on our Events page @ rivervalleychurch.co