

Serve Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. Describe one of the most serving people you know.
2. Do you plan to do any traveling over the next few months?

Read the following passage: Read Ruth 1:1-22.

Naomi was in a very desperate situation. The days of the judges constituted a period of chaos in Israel's history. Famine threatened everyone in Naomi's hometown. Her family had to flee to Moab. While there Naomi's husband and both sons died. There seemed to be no hope for the family line's survival. Naomi felt that she had lost everything. But Ruth's commitment to serve Naomi brought about a stunning restoration.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. What challenges, internal and external, do you imagine Ruth faced as she made a commitment to serve Naomi? What are some obstacles that may stand in the way to our serving other people?
2. Ruth made a decision to "cling" to Naomi. Do you have any relational commitments that make it easier for you to take action and serve people in need? If so, are any of these commitments to people beyond your natural family? Explain.
3. Many biblical scholars think there was theological significance behind Jesus' decision to appoint twelve apostles. What might be some practical reasons Jesus would appoint such a group? How does this relate to our own decisions to define relational commitments?
4. Have you made a commitment to a local church? Explain. What do you think commitment to a local church should entail?
5. How did God end up providing for Ruth and Naomi? How might serving others help us and them experience the Lord in a new and deeper way?
6. What is one way you would like to grow in serving others? Where can you start practically?

Pray