



UNCOMFORTABLE

Ruth – Total Devotion

Discussion Points

May 13, 2018

Read & Reflect:

1. Read the story of *Ruth* in one sitting, if you can. Notice the symmetry in the story: Ruth and Boaz; Orpah and the kinsman-redeemer that chooses not to take Ruth as his wife; the women that surround Naomi and the men that surround Boaz. And then there's Naomi – she's alone.
2. If the story of Naomi (the book of Ruth) is meant to reflect the story of Israel, what parallels can you make between Israel and Naomi? Why do you think the book of Ruth is between the books of Judges and Samuel?
3. Why is there a genealogy at the end of the story? How does that shape the point of the story?

Explore:

4. If the story of Ruth is like a mirror, where do you see yourself:

I see myself in Naomi

I see myself in Ruth

I see myself in Orpah

I see myself in Boaz

I see myself in the women around Naomi

5. What are some instances in which you have gone the extra mile? Was it worth it? How do you judge that?
6. Where do you tend to put your energy and ambition?
 - in something you have carefully researched and know that you can accomplish.
 - In something that inspires you, and you fail at it until you meet some success.
 - A mix of both.

Pray:

- Share the ways in which serving (in whatever capacity) is tiring, exhausting, unfulfilling, thankless, and commit one another to prayer, asking for the strength of grace and the peace of mercy.
- Celebrate ways in which you have received grace and mercy in your life and give thanks to God.