

# RUTH

*a love that redeems*

## discussion guide



### OVERVIEW FOR RUTH: A LOVE THAT REDEEMS

The story of Ruth is one of rebellion, repentance, refuge, redemption and restoration. It lays out for us a love story that mirrors the ultimate love story of God and his redemption of us. This isn't just Ruth's story. This is our story as well. All of us have rebelled and run away from God. We all have the opportunity to repent and return to God. As we return, we will find that God provides a refuge and pays the ultimate cost for our redemption, restoring us to a right relationship with him and others.

#### PART 4: A Risky Adventure with a Remarkable Man

*Read the text: Ruth 3:1-18*

After returning to Bethlehem, God provides for Naomi and Ruth through Boaz, who graciously welcomes Ruth to glean more than enough grain. Yet, even with this provision, Naomi and Ruth still have nothing. But Naomi has a plan. Rather than trusting God in this moment, she recklessly plots to find Ruth a husband, putting her in danger through her dishonorable plan. Even in this moment, Ruth steps out in faith and Boaz responds with honor and grace; a beautiful picture of the way Jesus responds to us. In this story, we continue to see what redeeming love looks like; pointing us to the greatest love shown to us through our Redeemer, Jesus.

#### Discuss Together

1. Naomi knew they had nothing and Ruth needed a husband. Instead of trusting God's way, she recklessly plotted to make it happen through her own plan; putting

Ruth in danger. When have you trusted in your own plan and perhaps made reckless decisions to make things happen on your own? Are you currently working to make something happen, even something good, by trusting in your plans or efforts rather than in God? Share with each other the areas of your life where you are most tempted to rely on your own action and planning rather than God to work.

2. Even as Naomi recklessly put her in a dangerous place, Ruth trusted God would provide and stepped out in faith, asking Boaz to marry her and honoring God in the process. Her great faith led her to take a great risk. Where in your life is God clearly asking you to step out in faith and take a risk? Share with each other what this step of faith might be. Commit to follow-up with each other about this step of faith (when and how will you follow-up?) and pray together for faith to trust God in it.
3. We see God redeeming Ruth's story through Boaz. It points us to an even greater Redeemer, Jesus Christ, who redeems our own stories. How have you seen Jesus bring redemption to your story? Where does your story still need redemption? Take time to thank Jesus for the redemption he has accomplished. Pray together and ask, in specific ways, for his redeeming work in your life.