



A Worship Discussion Guide for Individuals, Groups & Families for the week of January 4, 2026

Read the Bible passage aloud in your group meeting. This is a worship discussion guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for your meeting, and use them as a starting point for your time together.

Ruth 1:1-5, 16-17 *Stubborn Love*

¹In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. ²The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. ³But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years, ⁵and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband....

¹⁶But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. ¹⁷Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the LORD do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you."

- 1.) Read the Book of Ruth though in a single setting to hear the whole story. Even if you were to read it out loud as a group, it would only take 20 minutes. What first impressions do you have after reading the book?
- 2.) One of the prominent themes of the Book of Ruth is redemption. How have you seen God act as Redeemer in your life? What things tempt you to believe God will not redeem?
- 3.) When did the events of this story take place? What was this time like? (1-5)
- 4.) Describe the family who was driven into the land of Moab by the famine. Identify each member: Elimelech (*My God is King*), Naomi (*Pleasant; Sweet*), Mahlon (*Weak; Sick*), Orpah (*Neck; Stiff-Necked*), Chilion (*Failing*) & Ruth (*Friend*). (1-2)
- 5.) Given Israel's spiritual condition at the time, how might the family understand the famine in Bethlehem? Read [Deuteronomy 28:15,22-24](#) for more insight.
- 6.) How long did this family live in Moab and what tragedies did they suffer? Note the use of the term "she was left". How can this kind of suffering can have on the human heart? (3-5)
- 7.) Ruth makes promises to Naomi. What are they? Why does she make them? (16-17)
- 8.) The Book of Ruth teaches about God's gracious providence as He brings His people from emptiness to fullness. What do you need God to do in your life?
- 9.) Pray together in light of this week's passage.

