



A Worship Discussion Guide for Individuals, Groups & Families for the week of January 18, 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 1:14-22 Love That Sticks

¹⁴ Then they lifted up their voices and wept again. And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

¹⁵ And she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." ¹⁶ But 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. ¹⁷ Where 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." ¹⁸ And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more.

¹⁹ So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. And when they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them. And the women said, "Is this Naomi?" ²⁰ She said to them, "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. ²¹ I went away full, and the LORD has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi, when the LORD has testified against me and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?"

²² So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabite her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. And they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.

- 1.) What five vows of faithfulness did Ruth make to her mother-in-law? (16-17)
- 2.) Consider a relationship where you sacrifice to love someone. How does Jesus Christ's love for you make a difference in that relationship?
- 3.) When are you tempted to become bitter?
- 4.) Why did Naomi ask the people in Bethlehem to call her "Mara"? Was she justified to do so? (20)
- 5.) Have you ever struggled, like Naomi, not to be done with God?
- 6.) What might be going through Ruth's heart & mind during this introduction to the women of Bethlehem?
- 7.) God is not done with Naomi (and Ruth), even though Naomi is pretty much done with God. How is that comforting/challenging to you in your own circumstances this week?
- 8.) Ruth is not just Naomi's daughter-in-law, she points us to Jesus Christ. How does Ruth's testimony lead you to Jesus?
- 9.) Pray together in light of this week's passage.