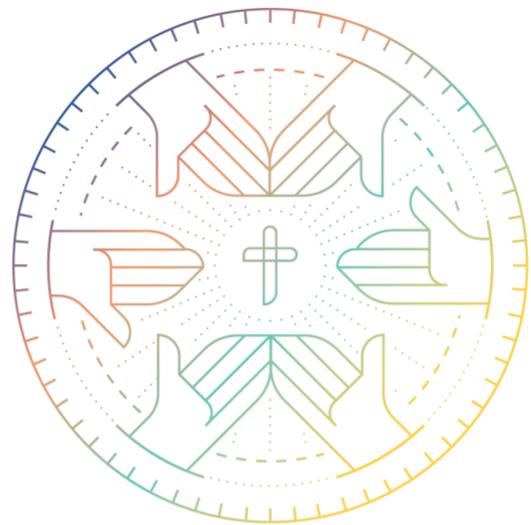


# Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



## ICEBREAKER (10 MINUTES)

Which food do you prefer, sweet or savory? Do you like to try new foods?

OR

Share a time when you had to take initiative in a difficult situation. How did that work out?

## INTRODUCTION (5-10 MINUTES)

What most stood out to you from Pastor David's message?

Read Deuteronomy 24:19-22. It's amazing that this passage becomes such a powerful part of Ruth's story!

## INTO THE WORD (20 MINUTES)

### Read Ruth 1:19-22 and Galatians 6:9.

How does Ruth's decision to stay with Naomi demonstrate doing what is right, even when it's not easy?

- Is there an area of your life where you find it challenging to do what is right?

Discuss the meaning of Naomi's name change to "Mara" (bitter). How did bitterness affect her perspective?

- Reflect on the evidence of bitterness David mentioned. Have you experienced or witnessed any of these signs in your life or others?

### Read Ruth 2:2 and Proverbs 6:6-11.

Discuss the significance of Ruth's decision to glean in the fields. How does it demonstrate taking initiative in her circumstances?

- How can we apply the concept of taking initiative in our lives, especially in challenging situations? How might God want you to take initiative?

### Read Ruth 2:1-4 and Matthew 7:15-20.

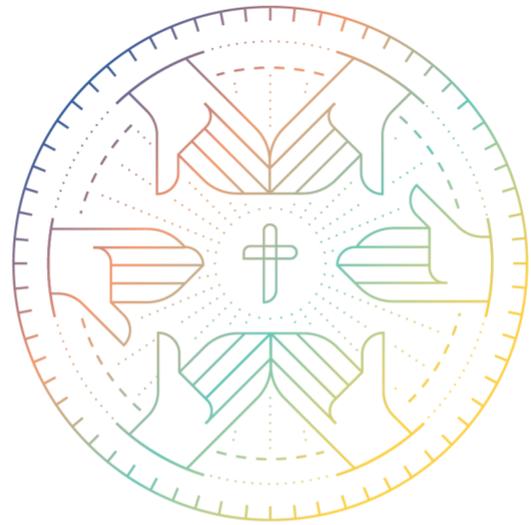
Discuss Boaz's characteristics that reveal his relationship with God.

- How can we identify a person's connection with God through their everyday life?

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## Read 1 Timothy 5:8 and Ephesians 6:2-3.

Ruth provided for Naomi by gleaning from Boaz's field. Discuss how this example applies to our lives now, several thousand years later. How can we follow Ruth's example today?

### APPLICATION (15 MINUTES)

What steps can you take to bring healing to any bitterness in your life?

- Reflect on the signs of bitterness mentioned and outline steps to address and heal any bitterness you may be experiencing.

Where do you need to take refuge in God?

- Identify specific areas in your life where you need to seek refuge and trust God's plan.

### PRAYER (10 MINUTES)

*Our Savior and Lord Jesus, thank you for being our refuge. Teach us to find rest and safety under your wings (Psalm 57:1). We need you more than we will ever know. And yet your love for us stays faithful and available. Help us to recognize bitterness that tries to take root in our hearts. Be with us in powerful ways as we enter this new week. Amen.*