

If you have limited time to prepare, this 3-step outline is a helpful tool for leading a small group discussion:

1. Read the text from Sunday's message.
2. What did you find most helpful/confusing/new/ that you did not understand from the message?
3. What were your big takeaways? How will you put these into practice in your life?

## Getting Started

The Bible Project provides wonderful overviews of each book of the Bible.

Here's a link to the overview for the book of Ruth (7 minutes). <https://bibleproject.com/explore/ruth/>

Each week we will include a short video related to the Broken Dreams message that your group can watch together to initiate the group discussion. Here's the video link for this week's message on Ruth 1:1-16. <https://youtu.be/kbpW5ViZM50>

Select either question to get the discussion started (or come up with one of your own).

- When have you felt alone in the world or most cared for?
- Share a story from your life when you moved or made a major change in your life and how you dealt with those times of doubt regarding your decision when you may have longed for the comfort of "home" or what was familiar.

## Discussion

Select a couple of questions from the ones listed below to dig deeper into this week's message and how you can apply what God is teaching you to deal with similar issues in your own life.

- The book of Ruth opens with the statement "In the days when the judges ruled ..." (Ruth 1:1). What was the spiritual temperature in Israel during the times of the Judges? (Judges 2:10-14, 21:25)



- For Elimelek and his family to move to Moab in response to the famine in Israel seemed like the practical thing to do. Based on what we know about Moab, why may this not have been the best decision for his family? (Genesis 19:30-38; Numbers 25:1-3; Deuteronomy 23:2-4; Judges 3:12-30; Isaiah 15-16; Jeremiah 48; Ezekiel 25:8-11; Amos 2:1-3)

Share a time when you made a decision for practical reasons but later you came to realize that it was not the best decision from a spiritual perspective.

- In this first chapter we see that hard times led to relocation and major changes in the life of this family (move, death, grief, lack of family support, doubt regarding next steps, etc.)

What are some hard times faced by you and your family and how did these events influence your spiritual journey?

- Do you think Naomi made the right decision to move back home? What would you have done? Why do you think Ruth insisted on going with Naomi?
- Share a major life decision that you are currently facing (or will soon be facing) and how you are you discerning God's will regarding decisions that must be made.
- Who has been a "Ruth" to you? Someone who has gone out of their way to be there for you in a time of need? What impact did that have on you?

## Prayer