

11.13.16 Identity
Discussion Questions

Leader Prep Section

Take time before your small group meeting to prepare by reading through the questions and scripture passage so that you can select 4-5 questions that are best suited to your group.

Try to work through at least one question from each of the sections - Hook, Book, Look, Took in order to move from observation to application.

When possible spend time in prayer for each member of your group.

Questions

Hook - Ice breaker type questions to help make the transition into the study time.

1. What is your best "scar story"?

Read Ruth 1

Book - These questions are designed to get you into the text itself.

1. What can we say we know about Ruth?
2. What can we say we know about Naomi?
3. What do the characters believe is true about God? What does the narrator believe is true about God?
4. How does the way book end up (Ruth 4:13 - 22) make you view Ruth and Naomi differently?

Look - These questions will take you on a deeper look at what the passage means for us today.

1. What character do you find yourself identifying with? Why?
2. What does this story remind you of from your own life?
3. What is the good news for you from this story?
4. If you had to give the first chapter of Ruth a title, what would it be?

Took - These questions are focused on applying the big idea from the text to our lives.

1. How do you be open and honest about the reality of the pain you have experienced without wallowing in it?
2. Often when telling our stories of faith or life we tend to over or under share the painful pieces. How do we find a balance point where the painful is included but we look for the ways that God has used it to bring good to us or others?
3. What most struck you from Sunday's message and Kamille's sharing?
4. What do you sense God is saying to you through this text?

Closing

Too often we choose to numb our pain rather than look at it honestly and see the ways that God is using even the hurtful parts of our lives to show his love to others. The power of our stories comes when we have taken the time to really look and process through all the pieces and then share it with those in our lives. Spend some time praying together for the courage to see how God is using your experiences for his glory and to remember that nothing is beyond the reach of God's redemption.

Reminder: We did not come into this world by chance or happenstance and our true identity is defined and refined by Jesus. It is to him and him alone that we ultimately belong and he gives us our story and the lens through which to understand it.