



LIFELINE Discussion Guide

Week of April 27, 2026

1. When was the last time you saw a beautiful “stained glass” project or window? Where was it located? Do you remember what was pictured? Why are we so impressed by artists who work with stained glass?
2. **Read Ruth 1:1-22** – with each person in the group reading a verse until the chapter is complete.
3. As you think about the backstory of Ruth’s arrival into Israel, is it delightful or depressing? Explain your answer. Do you think Elimelech should be applauded or criticized for abandoning the Promised Land for a foreign country, and letting his boys marry foreign wives?
4. Summarize the deep pain and grief that Naomi experienced. What happened to her? What does the name “Mara” mean? In what ways have you seen God work through hardship, loss, or disappointment in your own life, and how can Ruth’s story encourage you to trust His redemptive purposes?
5. Why is it important to recognize God’s providence behind human circumstances, and how can this perspective change the way we interpret our own life challenges? (see Psalm 37:23 and Romans 8:28)
6. Ruth was a foreigner and outsider, yet God used her in an extraordinary way in biblical history. What does Ruth’s inclusion in God’s redemptive plan reveal about God’s grace, and how should this shape our view of people who may seem different, overlooked, or unlikely?
7. Would you have blamed Ruth if she decided to return to her parents’ home like Orpah did? How do Ruth’s choices challenge us to live with faith and loyalty to God, even when the future is uncertain? (see also Proverbs 3:5-6)
8. Pastor Ryan explained that the Book of Ruth follows the classic “U-shaped” storyline that many of us enjoy in books, movies, and plays. How does that story structure typically unfold? Can you think of any other Bible stories/accounts that follow this same structure?
9. Think back to a time when you experienced something hard or heartbreaking. What happened? Did you see God ultimately use it to bring about something beneficial, beautiful, or positive? Share your story.

Close with a time or prayer— inviting three or four group members to celebrate God’s providence and power in our lives— and His ability to take broken things and make them something beautiful.

God can take the broken pieces of my life and make something beautiful.