"Do Something Significant"

Ruth 1:6-22

STRENGTH for the Journey with Joe Stowell
Part of the RBC family of Ministries

Group Study Introduction

Use the following questions and exercises as your group time allows. Feel free to skip one or more questions in each section as necessary. If you have less then thirty minutes for group discussion, we recommend skipping the "Getting Started" section. Be sure to save time for prayer at the end of your meeting, using the "Strength through Prayer" section.

Getting Started:

Joe Stowell shares how his wife gave him a wedding ring inscribed with a reference to Ruth 1:16-17.

- If you're married, what symbol from your wedding has had special meaning to you?
- When you think about weddings, what Scripture passage stands out to you? Why?

Strength through Scripture:

Open your Bibles to Ruth 1 and have a volunteer read verses 1-22 out loud.

1. Joe states that God nearly always uses people, and common folk at that, to do something significant. Besides Ruth, what other ordinary people—or "nobodies"—in the Bible come to your mind in this regard?

2. Joe shares how an ordinary man named Ed Kimball sacrificed his day off to visit boys in his Sunday school, one of whom was D. L. Moody, to make sure they knew Jesus as their Savior. Do you know of another story like that about an ordinary person?

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Notes:

"But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God."

Ruth 1:16

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3. Ruth and Orpah came to a crossroads. What would be the likely consequence of choosing to return to their families in Moab?

4. What would be the consequence of choosing to go with Naomi to Judah?

5. Have you ever been confronted with the crossroads of choosing whether to live your life for your own benefit or to live for the gain of others?

Digging Deeper:

If your group has enough time (i.e., you've listened to the audio on your own), answer one or more of these optional questions.

1. Joe states that when God displaced a person in the Old Testament, He often brought them to power to glorify God. How do Joseph and Daniel, in their Old Testament stories, glorify God?

2. How does this story of two destitute widows on a journey glorify God?

3. How does the book of Ruth point to Jesus as an "equal-opportunity Savior"?

Strength through Sharing:

1. Do you sometimes feel like you're a "nobody" in the middle of nowhere?

2. Read the "Call to Action" below. How badly do you want God to use your life?

Notes:

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Strength through Prayer:

Spend a few moments as a group in silent, personal prayer. Thank God for what we can learn about Him through the person and example of Ruth.

You may want to begin your prayer with these words:

"Thank You, Lord, that You are looking for common folks like me who are willing to be used significantly by You. I commit myself to do intentional acts of selfless sacrifice. I choose to live my life for the gain of others rather than for my own benefit. I pray this in the name of Jesus, our wonderful, equal-opportunity Savior."

When you are finished with this time for silent, personal prayer, you may want to move into a time of group prayer, praying for one another.

Closing Call to Action:

If you really want God to use your life, it's not about being famous or being a headliner or holding some huge position. It is simply—and we see this all through the Bible—about you being willing to commit a selfless act of service in someone else's life.

Today, before you put your head on your pillow, ask God for the opportunity to do one selfless act of service. It may be for your spouse, a friend, your children, or maybe for an enemy. But service is the key, and we're learning that from Ruth.

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