



## GUIDE FOR GROUP STUDY: the week of May 13th

This study is designed to help your community group grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. There are three dimensions to following Jesus.



**UP:** growing in relationship with God

**IN:** growing in relationship with other followers of Jesus

**OUT:** growing in relationship with the world around us as we join God in God's mission

### Get Started:

Name someone who has been kind to you recently. Share the story of how their kindness played out in your life.



### **UP: Connect with God through Spending Time in His Word**

Read aloud the passage for the week: Ruth 2:17-23. Allow a few moments to silently reflect on what you heard. Underline or note words or phrases that seem meaningful. Read it one more time together. Pray for your study of God's Word.

1. Ruth and Naomi are desperate. Their only plan for physical survival is to find food. One writer describes Ruth as "a gutsy risk-taker and a powerful agent for change among God's people."\* Review pieces of Ruth's story: Ruth 1:15-18, Ruth 2:1-3. What risks did Ruth take in her faithfulness to Naomi? What were her options?
2. If you were Ruth, how would you have responded in this situation?
3. What do you think was Naomi's tone in verse 19? What shift do you see in Naomi? (Remember, earlier in Ruth chapter 1, Naomi asked to be called "bitter").
4. God's grace is seen throughout the story of Ruth and Naomi even when they are unaware. Read Ruth 2:3: "As it turned out, she found herself working in a field belonging to Boaz..." God was obviously working "behind the scenes"! Breakthrough was coming! How can understanding God's work like this encourage us to not give up on God?
5. Where in your story right now do you need to be reminded that God is at work "behind the scenes?"

\*Carolyn Custis James in *The Gospel of Ruth: Loving God Enough to Break the Rules*

Going Deeper: What word, phrase or thought from today's passage or from your time together is God lifting up as significant for you? How does it speak to a current situation in your life? How is God inviting you to respond?



**Out: : Connect with the World Around Us (Join God in His Mission)**

"One day, God showed up." How can we as a group practice looking for God and noticing what God is doing around us?

How have you seen God showing up in your life this week?



**IN: Connect with Each Other**

Spend some time sharing prayer requests and praying for one another.