

Here's a small group guide based on the sermon transcription:

Small Group Guide: Lessons from Ruth - Character, Service, and Waiting on God

Opening Discussion:

1. What stood out to you most from the sermon on Ruth?
2. Have you ever experienced a time when someone's kindness or service to you changed your perspective? Share briefly.

Key Takeaways:

1. Consistent service can soften hardened hearts and transform relationships.
2. Integrity and character are built over time and revealed in our choices.
3. Waiting on God's timing, though difficult, often leads to better outcomes.
4. Our reputation takes a lifetime to build but can be quickly damaged.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does Ruth's service to Naomi demonstrate the power of consistent kindness? How can we apply this in our own relationships?
2. The sermon mentions that "we actually feel the best about ourselves when we serve." Do you agree? Why or why not?
3. Discuss the concept of "noble character" as mentioned in Ruth 3:11. What does this look like in today's context?
4. How did Boaz demonstrate integrity in his actions? What can we learn from his example?
5. The sermon touches on the challenge of waiting. Why is waiting on God's timing so difficult for us? How can we cultivate patience?
6. Reflect on the statement: "He's either Lord of all or he's no Lord at all." What does this mean to you practically?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, choose one person to serve consistently without expecting anything in return. Reflect on how this impacts both you and them.
2. Identify an area in your life where you're struggling to wait on God's timing. Commit to praying about it daily this week.
3. Ask a trusted friend or family member to give you honest feedback about your character and reputation. Use their input to set one specific goal for personal growth.
4. Look for an opportunity to offer wise advice to someone, following Naomi's example. Remember to do so with kindness and respect.

Closing Prayer:

Close by praying for each other, specifically in areas where group members need strength in character, opportunities to serve, or patience in waiting on God's timing.