

Why is it so hard?

Community Group Leaders Guide

Ruth 1:1-18 /// Week of April 7

Today's big idea: Relationships are important.

**You can Google search, "Simon Says rules" if you need them.**

- In honor of Naomi play a game of "Naomi Says" (aka: Simon Says).
- Review the Community Group Guidelines together.
- What did you hear in the sermon that caught your attention?
- Someone pray that God would help us hear from him.

Head

**There are a lot of verses here but don't worry about sharing every detail. Focus on the main ideas and the dialogue. You can do it!**

- Use Bible Storytelling to tell the story of Ruth and Naomi.
- Retell the story together as a group.
- Read the story from Ruth 1:1-18 in the Bible.
- What were the risks that were apparent for Elimelek, Naomi, Orpah and Ruth?
- What all did Ruth sign up for when she decided to go with Naomi?

Heart

**The very nature of this discussion is that people would not want to share if this is difficult for them. This sharing will also be risky. Model what it looks like to be transparent and vulnerable. The group will follow your lead. Push past generalities. Encourage group members to speak from personal experience.**

- How has it felt risky for you to have a transparent and vulnerable relationship with someone else?
- What is the advantage of being in deep relationship with someone when you have the option not to be?

Hands

**You may find some hesitancy here. Try to keep track of the steps each group member plans to take. Follow up with a call during the week to ask how it is going and how you can pray together about it.**

- Like Ruth in verse 16, how have you fought for the relationship with someone who was pushing you away?
- What practical step can you take to push through risk and embrace the advantages of being in genuine relationship with others?
- How can you use what was discussed today to begin a new relationship—specifically a discipling relationship—with someone?

Next Week:

Why is it so hard to work through shame? Luke 7:36-50