

# Return

## Ruth 1



To get the most out of this guide, prepare **BEFORE** your growth group, then be ready to discuss **DURING** the group. This will help you and others to engage and respond to God's Word.

### ▶ Starter

1. Share a story of running away or getting lost (humorous or otherwise!)

*The book of Ruth is a beautiful short story. It's a story of God's sovereign and gracious guidance. It's a story of return and refuge and redemption. As we begin our time in Ruth, let's set the scene.*

### ▶ Pray & read Ruth 1:1, Judges 2:10-19, 21:25

2. What is the setting for the book of Ruth?

### ▶ Read Ruth 1:1-5

3. Was leaving the land a good move? Why/why not? (See also Deut 11:8-12, 16-17, 23:3-6)

4. How are you tempted to find the good life apart from God?

### ▶ Read Ruth 1:6-22

5. Why does Naomi tell Orpah and Ruth to return home? (vv. 8-13)

6. Compare the speeches of Ruth and Naomi.

	Ruth (vv. 16-17)	Naomi (vv. 20-21)
View of God		
Response to God		

7. What is astonishing about Ruth's words and actions?

8. How does God bring outsiders into his family now? (See also Ruth 4:17 and Matt 1:1-17) How should we respond to this truth?

9. In what ways do you need to repent and return to God?

▶ **Possible prayer points**

- Praise God for his great plan to bring blessing to his people.
- Thank God for his sovereign control over everything that happens in the world.
- Ask God for wisdom to respond appropriately when you feel bitter because things have not gone the way you hoped they would.
- Pray that you would turn away from the ways of the world and trust in God and his ways.