Small Group Discussion Notes
Ruth: Faithful Love
Week 1
When Things Fall Apart
January 26,2025

Warm Up
Share a time when you made a plan that completely fell apart.

Digging Deeper
Take a moment to reflect on the sermon from Sunday. Was there a thought or idea that stood out to you?

Read Ruth 1:1-14

Whether from the sermon, the passage itself or additional research/study notes, etc. what were some of the cultural dynamics at play during the period when the events in the book of Ruth took place?

After moving to Moab, Elimelek dies and Ruth is left in a foreign land with her sons, and daughters-in-law. If you had been in Ruth's shoes would you have made the same initial decision to stay in Moab? Why or why not?

After the death of Naomi's sons, she gets word that the Lord has in fact provided food in her homeland, and so she decides to return to Bethlehem. However, she encourages her daughters-in-law to go back to their own mother's homes. Why does she provide this encouragement to
Orpah and Ruth?

In verse 14 we observe the deep love shared between
Naomi, Orpah and Ruth. Yet, we see two different
responses to Naomi's encouragement to return to their own family homes. Orpah decides to heed this advice, while Ruth, "clung to [Naomi]." What does this demonstrate about Ruth's love for Naomi and the family into which she married?

Next Steps

When things in your life begin to fall apart, what is typically your first response/reaction?

How do you view God when plans don't work out, or circumstances become challenging?

What can we do during challenging seasons to remain firmly rooted in the Lord?

Final Thoughts

Take time as a group to pray for the difficult circumstances that you and your group members are currently facing.