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Small Group Discussion Guide

For the week of: April 30, 2018

Speaker: Pastor Linn Winters

“My Less than Perfect Family”

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. What are your three most prized possessions you own other than your home and car?

What are some indicators that we may be more focused on possessions than spiritual growth and eternity?

2. When you were young, how did you envision your future family?

How is the reality of your family different than you imagined?

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. The story of Ruth unfolds with a woman named Naomi. Naomi is married to a good man with two good sons—life is good. Then a famine and hard times hit and Naomi’s family moves to a neighboring country, Moab, which is a very dark both culturally and spiritually.

Naomi’s sons marry Moabite women and her husband dies. Shortly after her husband dies her sons die as well. Now she lives in a hostile, foreign country with two Moabite daughters-in-laws and none of her original family.

Read Ruth 1:20—21.

What do you think some of Naomi’s emotional and spiritual struggles are at this point in her life?

What hard times have you lived through where the future looked dark and it seems as though the Lord has forgotten about you?

2. Read Ruth 1:15—18. Linn stated that Ruth was committed to Naomi because she saw something in her she had never seen before. Even in the mist of her affliction, there seemed to be a commitment to her God and her people and Ruth was taking notice.

What have been some typical ways you have reacted to hard times? (Circle the ones that apply)

Bring it on	Don’t tell anybody	Don’t admit it
God’s going to grow us	God’s here	Why does this happen to us?
Blame game	God’s not here	Prayer
Panic	Avoid at all costs	
Stubborn	Ignore it	

3. In our darkest hour, “what we do next,” is never louder than when you are walking through the storm. Your testimony will never be clearer than we you have to lean on your God in dark times. Read the following verse and write down how scripture would encourage us to react in those dark times.

Deuteronomy 31:6

Isaiah 26:3

John 14:26-27

Proverbs 3:5-6

Psalms 34:17-18

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

4. Read Ruth 2:15-20. Naomi realizes in this moment that Boaz is literally the hand of God intervening in her life. Linn stated that we need to be willing to allow God to bring a “Boaz” into our life. Someone that we know is Godly and we allow to speak into our lives.

Who is your Boaz(s)? _____

We also need to be a Boaz for someone else. Who are you being Boaz to?

TAKING IT HOME

In Ruth 2:20, Naomi refers to Boaz as the “Kingsman-Redeemer” which means, one who redeems or rescues. Scholars state that this is an Old Testament picture of Jesus who is the ultimate Kingsman-Redeemer to come. If we are to be a Boaz for others (literally the hands and feet of Jesus) what do I need to do to take one step in that direction this week?

Prayer Requests:

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