

SMALL GROUPS

Small Group Discussion

Week of June 6th, 2011

W: Great Women of the Bible

“Counting the Cost of Faithfulness”

(Ruth and Naomi)

1. Tell about a time in your life when you needed and experienced restoration? Where and how was God involved?
2. Ruth obeyed the Biblical principle that directs us to be good and kind to others (especially widows). How does God use you to offer acts of goodness and kindness to people in need around you?

Read: James 1:17-27

3. Naomi and RUTH were both hurting. How do we minister to those who are hurting while we are dealing with our own hurts and pain?
4. How does bitterness begin? How does it take root? What can we do to prevent it from directing our words and actions?

Read: Hebrews 12:6-15

5. Naomi and Ruth went through tough and desperate times as we often do today. Ruth kept a good and faithful attitude; Naomi struggled, but persevered with hers. Which of these two women do you most identify with and why?

Read: Proverbs 28:20, 3:5-6 and Hebrews 11:1

6. In difficult situations it's tempting and natural to speak from our emotions...usually negatively. Words have great power to heal, support, and build people up. They can also damage and crush the people around us. Jesus spoke of this in Matthew 12:35-37. Read this passage as a group. Also, read Proverbs 15:4. How do you see people misuse the power of their words in our world today? What are some of the ways you can be tempted to misuse your words?
7. Some people are easier to love than others. Sometimes we encounter people who are hard to love because of how they act or talk. When are the times you find it most difficult to extend love to others? How can seeking God and looking to Jesus help you love others, even when it is difficult?

Read: Leviticus 19:18 and Matthew 22:39