

# SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of October 11-17, 2020

## “THE PICTURE OF GOODNESS”

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### GETTING STARTED

*To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.*

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

Share a “God is good” testimony or praise report that you have experienced in the past week.

### GROUP DISCUSSION

Have people in the group take turns in reading Ruth 1-2.

1. Naomi doesn’t sugarcoat her emotions. Do you think it was okay for her to be forthright with her feelings about God? On the other hand, would it have been better for her to pretend everything was okay? How should we handle talking to God and to others about our circumstances and feelings?
2. God meets Naomi when she feels empty but not in a way we expect. What does this reveal about God, and how can that encourage us? When have you experienced God meeting you when you’ve felt emptied out in the past?
3. Throughout the story, we get some glimpses of the character of Ruth. What are some of these things that you observe about her? What strikes you most about her? Why?
4. *Discuss.* How does Ruth walk alongside Naomi through the story? What are some examples of ways to walk side-by-side with someone today? How have you seen or experienced this? How will our current circumstances (i.e. pandemic, quarantine) provide opportunities to walk side-by-side with others both in the short-term and long-term? Be specific.
5. How does Boaz go above and beyond what was required? Sometimes our mindset about generosity (in our finances, relationships, possessions) is that we will go above and beyond only when we already have the capacity or capability to do so. Is this right? What would it mean to prioritize and develop a personal attitude of going “above and beyond”?

6. Going above and beyond essentially is personally telling God, “Lord, all I have is yours.” Is there an area in your life that God is speaking to you about releasing all to him?

7. Consider the different Fruit of the Spirit that we have studied so far – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness and goodness. How are they connected? Can you share a recent real-life experience where you have seen some of these virtues in play?

### 8. [NEXT STEPS]

*“God’s goodness is the root of all goodness; and our goodness, if we have any, springs out of his goodness.” (William Tyndale)*

- ☐ I will work in developing an attitude of gratitude.
- ☐ I will be faithfully generous.
- ☐ I will seek opportunities to be a Ruth or a Boaz to someone this week.
- ☐ I will remember and celebrate the goodness of the Lord.

*Don’t forget to:*

- ☐ Go through the devotionals everyday this week.
- ☐ Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God’s Word.
- ☐ Commit 30 minutes a day for God’s intervention in this fight against the COVID virus.

### CLOSING THE SESSION.

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for the Holy Spirit to grow the fruit of goodness in your life and for the Lord to show you who you can express this to.
- Take the time to pray for our nation, for peace and for the gospel to prosper during this time of the pandemic.
- Pray for those who are hurting, going through fear, worry and anxiety in the group.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends and loved ones.