

groups

Study Group: Leader Guide
Not Life As It Should Be
Ruth 2 – December 16th-22nd

CHECK-IN

*An opportunity to show authentic community as we **share the struggles** and **celebrate the victories** we've experienced in the last week.*

STUDY

Main Topics: God's Goodness, Provision, Judgment

Read Ruth 2

- What were some of the laws and commands put in place to help provide for the poor in ancient Israel? (see Leader Notes)
- How did Boaz go above and beyond the law's requirements?
- What facilitated Naomi's drastic change of heart?
- Where do you see God's sovereignty displayed in this chapter?
- What does it really mean when we say God is good?
- What are aspects of God's character that people claim are not good?
 - Would you agree or disagree with those claims?

APPLY

- Did any of Pastor Bill's examples resonate with you?
- We don't live in ancient Israel, but poverty is still seen everywhere in the world. How does God command us to care for those in poverty today? (see Leader Notes)
- Many people struggle with the question: "How can a good God send people to hell?" How would you explain why God can be perfectly good and condemn individuals to hell at the same time? (see Leader Notes)
- When have you seen God's goodness in times where you didn't expect it?
- How do individuals try to place their understanding of what's good on God?

CLOSE

Which attributes of God did you see in this week's passage? How should it change the way that you pray, think, speak or act this week?

Leader Notes:

- 4 Key Truths
 - Life is not fair
 - God is good
 - Life is a gift
 - God is in control
- Laws & Commands of Ancient Israel
 - Leviticus 19:9-10, Leviticus 23:22, Deuteronomy 24:19-21, Isaiah 58:6-12
- Caring for Those in Need
 - Acts 2:44-45, James 1:27, 1 John 3:16-18
- A Good God
 - *God is HOLY.* (Isaiah 40:25-26, Isaiah 6:1-8)
 - Because God is holy He cannot stand anything that is sinful, otherwise He would not be a good God. He would stand for death, suffering and destruction if He did not despise that which is evil and seek to put it to an end. So, punishment must come to that which is less than holy.
 - *God is patient.* (2 Peter 3:9)
 - The example He demonstrates with the people of Israel is staggering. The people corporately rebelled against God 10 separate times in the book of Numbers, continually through Judges, during the entire age of the kings, and God still didn't wipe them out from the face of the earth. Instead, He went above and beyond to make a way for them to be fully healed and reconciled through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. And not only was it for the people of Israel but He made it way for us also to be grafted in to God's eternal family.
 - God models long suffering but there comes a day when each of us are called to stand before Him and face judgment based on whether we made Jesus the Lord of our lives or not. (Hebrews 9:27)

Reminders to Leaders:

- This guide is to help you facilitate discussion with your Study Group.
- Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering and owning the truths of God's Word.
- There may be questions you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth.
- Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on their relationship with God. Your role is to **facilitate this experience, not to complete** the discussion guide.

What are Groups?

Groups at Boca Community fall into 4 categories: Study, Equipping, Serve or Outreach. Each group consists of 8-16 people who encourage, challenge and care for one another as they walk through life together.

A full list of Groups can be found at bocacommunity.org/groups