

# SHADOWS

## Shadows—Week One: Redemption—Ruth and Boaz

**Connect:** Everyone has something going on right now that they would consider a problem, something that is less than desirable. Whether small or profound, share with the Group what is keeping you down?

### Grow

1. **Read Ruth 1:1-18.** How do you associate with Ruth in literally losing every sense of stability, familiarity, and protection, she had ever known? What reservations and fears would have kept you from being able to say Ruth's words in vs. 16-18.
2. From Ruth we learn to pray to God "please *hear* me." If you were sitting face to face with Jesus right now, what would you say to him? What would you ask him?
3. From Ruth we learn to pray to God "please *help* me." What issue, circumstance, or person do you need God to intervene and help you with today?
4. *We were designed to be loved deeply and daily.* And Satan tries to steal that reality from us by convincing us that we are defined and receive our value and self worth from our Appearance, Achievements, Acquisitions, and Associations. Which of those four do you tend to define yourself by and why?
5. **Read Ruth 4:18-22,** and **Matthew 1:1-6.** Through Ruth's story, we see that God has always had a plan and purpose, that he was working to fulfill his promise of redemption, even when it seems our world was crumbling around us. Where can you look back and now see God's hand at work amongst a stormy season of life?
6. **Read 2 Corinthians 4:18.** How does this verse speak truth and hope into your present moment? Where do you struggle to live out this verse?

**Pray:** We see that God used Ruth's brokenness and pain from her past to bring about hope for God's people through Jesus. Pray that God will hear you and help you to bring about healing from your hurt, and that through that, he will use it to extend hope to others.

**Next:** Pray and ask God to place someone on your heart this week who needs to be encouraged by the story of redemption we see displayed by Ruth. Invite that person to coffee or lunch, and ask them to share how their soul is currently. Listen to their story, and before leaving pray over them for God's healing to begin to take root.