

# SISTERHOOD CONNECT GROUP STUDY



Connect Study 17

## **RUTH Pt1 – CLINGING TIGHTLY**

**RUTH:** *A loyal woman who made the right choices.*

*“But Ruth replied, ‘Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.’” (Ruth 1:16, NIV)*  
Ruth chose to cling to her mother-in-law Naomi and to return with her to Israel, even though she herself was a Moabite. She chose to be loyal to Naomi and to the God of Israel. Ruth's story of loyalty became a story of freedom. God needs people who are loyal to Him and to the right things in life because, if we find freedom in Him, we can help others to find freedom also.

There are three qualities of loyalty revealed in Ruth's story:

- It is a decision that involves resolve and conviction
- There is no turning back
- It has an immovable stance

Take some time to consider the following questions in relation to your own life:

### **Read Ruth 1:11-18.**

What impresses you about Ruth's response to Naomi?

How did she demonstrate the three qualities of loyalty?

Ruth had a choice on who or what to cling to. A 'yes' to one choice is a 'no' to another. What have you said 'yes' to and what have you therefore said 'no' to? E.g. A 'yes' to love is a 'no' to fear (1 John 4:18).

How has that 'yes' been tested at times?



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## Read Galatians 5:1.

Discuss how clinging to the right things leads to freedom.

## Read Proverbs 3:3-4.

What is the result of faithfulness and loyalty? How can you become more faithful?

## Read 1 Peter 4:8-10.

What areas are you being called to be faithful stewards? (e.g. work, ministry, family, children etc.). Discuss whether you are showing the three qualities of loyalty in these areas and how you could improve.

**Study tip:** When studying a Scripture in the Bible, first of all we need to ask God to reveal His truth to us and to speak to us. It is then important to take time to read the Scripture, to ponder on it in prayer.

**Pray:** Pray together that God may give you the strength to stay loyal.

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## NATION BUILDERS – ON MISSION

One of the best ways we can make a difference as a connect is to regularly PRAY for the Nation Builders causes we support, and regularly inspire your group to receive your Nation Builders offering. Your giving makes a massive difference in helping us 'reach and influencing the world'.

### Nation Builders Update: Asia

Steve Dixon and Sam DiMauro hosted three training events in three different Asian nations to equip hundreds of Senior Pastors and then with our College Band held city-wide Night Rallies for thousands of believers. These nights witnessed breakthrough praise and worship, many salvations and healings. These events were held in Bangkok (Thailand), Manila (Philippines) and Kota Kinabulu (Malaysia) but included pastors and believers from surrounding nations, some of which are non-access countries where Christians face persecution because of their faith. Your Nation Builders giving made these events possible and helps us fulfill our Senior Pastors passion to 'Champion the Cause of the Local Church everywhere'. Thank you.

## PASTORAL CARE

- We have a pastoral care team at church to walk alongside people in your group who may be going through a tough time.
- Please contact the church office Sydney 02 8853 5353, Melbourne 03 9720 2099, Brisbane 07 3422 8500 or Newcastle 02 4927 1888 to let us know of anybody in your group (with their permission) who have sickness, death of a loved one, marriage challenges, surgeries.

