

## BREAKOUT DISCUSSION

**Compare Ruth 1:8 and 2:20 with Ruth 2:11 and 3:10.** Take turns to offer reading these aloud. Share your thoughts about how they relate to each other, and how they relate to the value of relationship and connection.

**Read Ruth 2:12 and Ruth 3:9.** Take turns to offer reading these aloud. Did you know that “robe” in 3:9 is the same Hebrew word as “wing” in 2:12? How does knowing that make the verses more meaningful? Do you have people who provide a “robe” or “wing?” Do you ever feel that God provides these for you?

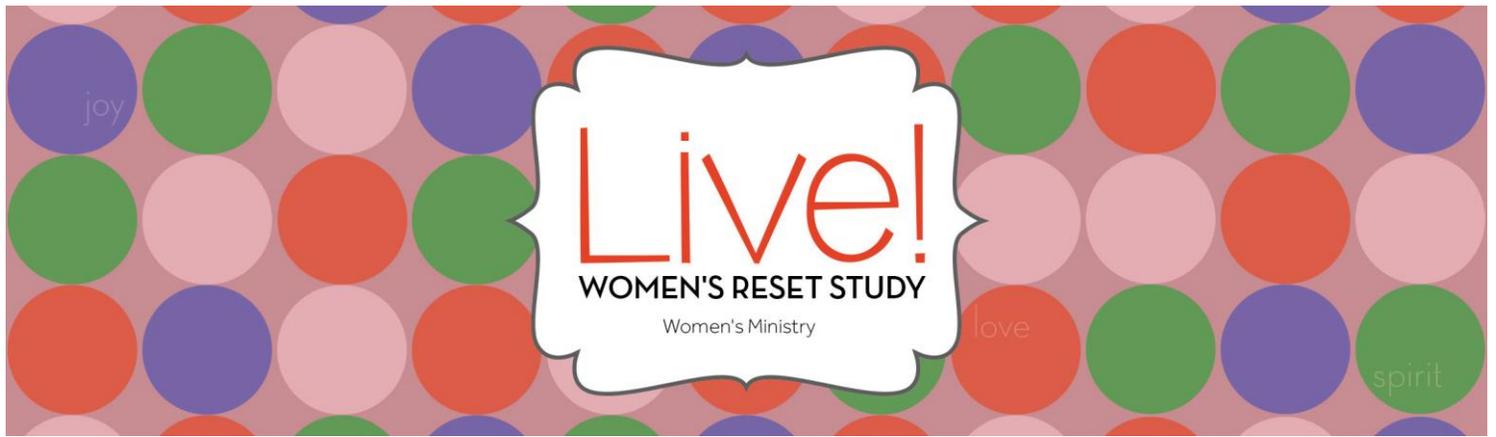
**Read Ruth 4:11-12;** offer to read this aloud. Why do you think Leah, Rachel and Tamar are mentioned? Share what you know about each. Discuss how they are connected to the nation of Israel. What do they have in common? Can you name some of the important women in your life, and tell one another about them?

**Read 2:20; offer to read it aloud.** What do you think the term “redeemer” means? How does Boaz become Ruth and Naomi’s redeemer? How is God our redeemer?

## READING GUIDE FOR THIS WEEK:

### GENESIS 2:15-24

- Adam is to work and care for the Garden of Eden, sharing in God’s good creation. Why do you think this could not be fully realized without a companion?
- God seems to pause after stating the need to create a helper, perhaps to see if Adam will discover one in the beasts, livestock and birds. Do you think this pause was deliberate? What did it emphasize?



### ACTS 1:4-11

- Jesus appears to the apostles just before ascending to heaven. What were they hoping Jesus would do? What does Jesus ask them to do?
- Why is it important for Jesus to invoke the name of God along with the Holy Spirit at this point?

### RUTH, VARIOUS

- Verse 1:6 says that Bethlehem was once again with food. How do you think Naomi thought of her position after losing her husband and her sons?
- Consider the contrast of pleasant and bitter (meaning of Naomi's name; 1:20), empty and full (1:21, 3:17), dead and living (1:3-5, 2:20), destitute and secure (1:1-5, 4:13-17). How do you resonate with these, during this time?
- Read 4:1-12. Redemption is a key concept in the book of Ruth. A kinsman-redeemer was responsible for protecting the interests of needy members of the extended family. With this in mind, what do you think is the turning point for Naomi? Who is your redeemer right now?
- How many names are listed in the family line (4:18-22)? Does this signify an extended amount of time? Does this time of sheltering seem like a long time to you? What are you learning during this time? Are you journaling your experience?

### RESET:

Re-read 1:16-17, make "wherever you go, I will go" as a way to invest in relationship and connection this week!