



Connect LIFEgroup discussion guide

“ God makes a way for redemption by Faith” Sun 29th Aug 2021

WELCOME

Check in with one another. What's one thing each person can be thankful for this week?

We have been following through a winter sermon series on faith (Heb 11:1-3 to James 1:2-4).

Q. What is one thing that has helped to keep your faith focussed on Jesus?

(quiet times, mentor, prayer, silence, worship, creative expression, gratefulness...)

Read *Romans 8:28*

Take a couple of minutes to watch this video online (cut and paste the link into your browser)

<https://www.facebook.com/touchedministriesinc/videos/love-and-purpose-wnona-jones-%EF%B8%8F/760282318090550/?extid=SEO---->

Q. When is a time that you have seen God take challenges, difficulties in your life and use them for good? (for you and/or others?)

Q. How can we encourage one another in the tough times by our stories?

Encourage your group (either together or individually) to read the book of Ruth - it is good to see God's hand weaving his redemptive plan through the whole story. You can watch the NIV version being read online: (cut and paste the link into your browser)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bPB80b6vVUY>

Read *Ruth 1:1-18* - the story of hope for a young family, turned to disaster

Examine Naomi's response to her situation **vs 11-13** (she is very real and honest).

Q. Does this mean she is lacking faith?

Examine Ruth's response to her situation **vs 16-17**. Faith builds courage and perseverance.

Q. Describe a time when you had to step beyond your comfort zone in faith.

Read *Ruth 4:9-13* - a Moabite widow becomes part of the lineage of Jesus (see ***Matthew 1:5*** Kinsman-redeemer or "Family-redeemer" (a male relative charged with redeeming a widow of property within the family)

Look up the definition of redeemer.

Q. In what ways is Jesus your redeemer?

Read *Romans 8:35-39*

Q. How does this passage give you reassurance that even if times are tough, even if you are being stretched way beyond your known capacity, Jesus is right there with you?

How can you encourage one another in your faith.

Connect, be encouraged today to fix your eyes on Jesus (this day) the initiator and perfecter of your faith! (*Heb 12:2*)

PRAY

Take some time to pray for one another. Pray for Vanessa and her family as they recover from Covid. Pray for Connect church family to be a people of faith who keep focussed on Jesus.