

IT'S COMPLICATED - Week 1

Life Group Notes



CONNECT QUESTIONS

Who is the most famous person you have ever met?

What would be your idea of a perfect day?

This week Ps Ric talked about 10 qualities to model and recognise in a marriage partner using the story of Ruth from the Bible. You may like to start your night by reading the story together. Then let's think about these qualities personally, and how they may be outworked in our lives – whatever our marital status!

1. Do we unashamedly and passionately love Jesus? Are his traits evident in our lives?

2. Do we model and recognise people of noble character? Boaz was known as a man of noble character (**Ruth 2:1** – also check out **Proverbs 31:30**) – how do you think you would describe your character? How do we identify character qualities in others?

3. Do we model and recognise people with a great work ethic? Ruth was willing to work hard to provide for her mother-in-law (**Ruth 2:2, 7**). How would you describe a great work ethic? How would you describe your own work ethic?

4. Do we model and recognise people who honour and respect others? Kindness is a real key! Check out **Ruth 2:11, 13** – Boaz and Ruth both spoke words of life to one another. Do we speak life over those we are in relationship with?

5. Do we model and recognise people who are generous? Boaz was very generous to Ruth and made sure she had more than she needed. Sometimes, generosity may be more than material possessions that we give – it may be our attention or our time. How can we be generous with others?

6. Do we take advice from wise people we trust? Do we listen to the wisdom of our parents or those we trust? When it comes to choosing a marriage partner, it is so important to listen to wise advice – and once we are married, advice is still very helpful! How are you at giving advice? What about receiving advice?

7. Do we look after ourselves and prevent ourselves from 'sliding'. Naomi encouraged Ruth to wash, put on perfumed oil and wear her her best clothes (**Ruth 3:3**). Appearance is definitely not the most important thing (**1 Samuel 16:7**) however it certainly does make an impact! How do you think we can prevent ourselves from 'sliding'?

8. Do we trust God for the right person? Ruth was commended for not chasing after younger men (Ruth 3:10). What do you think trusting God for a marriage partner looks like? What could or should you be doing in this pursuit?

9. We do not need another person to complete us – we need to be complete people – two halves in this case don't make a whole! Wholeness comes from a complete relationship with Jesus. How complete or whole do you think you are? What might you do to become a more complete person?

10. As a man, you should fight for the woman. As the woman, you should expect the right man to fight for you. What do you think of this statement?

The greatest key in all our relationships is serving your husband/wife and serving others as Jesus served us! **In our relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus...Check out Philippians 2:5-11.**

PRAYER

Pray for those who you are in a close relationship with.

Pray for any areas that you may need to work on to grow or improve either your relationships or yourself 😊