



Operation Transformation: Grow Together

CONNECT

- If a friend, family member or co-worker finds himself or herself in a bind how do you respond?

WORD

Ruth 1:8-14

8 Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back, each of you, to your mother's home. May the Lord show you kindness, as you have shown kindness to your dead husbands and to me. 9 May the Lord grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband." Then she kissed them goodbye and they wept aloud 10 and said to her, "We will go back with you to your people." 11 But Naomi said, "Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands? 12 Return home, my daughters; I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me—even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons— 13 would you wait until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them? No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me than for you, because the Lord's hand has turned against me!" 14 At this they wept aloud again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her.

THOUGHT

Naomi had a very difficult moment in her life. She lost her husband and her resources. Her two friends Ruth and Orpah had a difficult decision to make do they go back to their people or do they go with Naomi. When difficult times hit in our friends lives, the question is will you be a kisser Orpah (see you later) or a clever Ruth (I'm with standing with you)? Our destinies can be decided by the decisions we make and the people we choose to grow (do life) with.

DISCUSSION

1. Do you believe that our choices and the people we hang around with can shape or destinies? (1 Corinthians 15:33)

2. Who was Orpah the great great great grandmother of? Who was Ruth the great great great grandmother of? (Matthew 1:5)

3. Who has been a Ruth to you, someone who has gone out of their way to be there for you in a time of need? What impact has that person had on you?

4. Are you a Ruth or an Orpah to your friends? How do you know which one you are?

5. What was the positive result of Ruth staying in growing in a friendship/relationship with Naomi? (Proverbs 27:17)

PERSONAL APPLICATION

- This week actively pursue the role of Ruth in your spheres of influence this week. Be the friend, brother, or sister that someone you know needs to stand with them and grow together.
- Look back on the times where you were Naomi and needed a Ruth in your life. Write these times down and thank the friends and family for standing with you.

PRAYER

- Pray this week asking God how you can grow with the people around you. Pray asking Him to show you ways in which you can grow together.
- Pray for this week for growing together with those you go to church with. Be it your pastors, friends, connect group or someone you do not know. Pray asking God to help you rely, support and grow with these people.