

La Novela de Dios

Episode 4 – God’s Loyal Love



group discussion flow

connect with needs

- Find out how they are doing.
- Pray for wisdom from God for the session.
- Start by stating: “**You know your true friends by those who stick with you through hard times.**”
- Then, surface experiences:
 - “Let me tell you how I have experienced this.”
 - “Tell us how you have experienced this.”
- Transition to the Bible by saying, “This is also true in the Christian life.”
- Illustration(s):

hear what God says

- Read (or tell) a Bible story/passage related to the topic.
- Passages:
 - Ruth 1:1-21**
 - Ruth 2:1-12, 19-20**
 - Ruth 4:1-17**
- Commentary:
 - Ruth 1:1-18** — Even though her husband had died Ruth decided to loyally love her mother-in-law, Naomi, and stick with her through the hard times. Naomi thought God had abandoned her, Ruth showed she wouldn't.
 - Ruth 2:1-12, 19-20** — Ruth randomly goes to a field to gather grain and happens to choose a location owned by a relative (what are the odds?!). That relative was a kinsman-redeemer, someone who could marry Ruth and give her a hope and a future.
 - Ruth 4:1-17** — In Chapter 3 Boaz agrees to become the kinsman-redeemer for Ruth. He goes to the city gate and redeems Ruth and decides to become her husband. In so doing, God showed he had not left Naomi and Ruth, but was loyal to them all along. He had a plan and was with them through the hard times.

- Discuss each passage using these questions, or the alternate questions below:

“What do you think this passage teaches us?”

“What can we learn about God or our response to God?”

How do you think this passage relates to the statement we discussed earlier: “You know your true friends by those that stick with you even through hard times.”

According to Jewish Law, a relative was required to marry a widow if they didn't have any children so that the family name could continue. It was God's way of providing for widows. If the closest relative couldn't marry the widow then the right to marry her would pass on to the next closest related person until a husband was found.

This story begins with Naomi moving to Moab because of famine. There she loses her husband and two sons and feels abandoned by the Lord. Through a series of “random” events God shows that He is loyal to His people. He cares for them and desires their best even when circumstances may indicate otherwise. Just as Ruth showed Loyal Love to Naomi, so God showed it to Ruth and Naomi. Praise Him that He shows it to us as well.

apply that to life

- State the main lesson: “**God is a loyal lover even when we're going through hard times.**” Have them write the **lesson learned** on their Mini-Journal card.
- Discuss:
 - Why is loyalty such a crucial way to show someone you care for them?*
 - Why is it so hard to believe God loves us with a loyal love when we are in difficult times?*
 - “What is one action you can take this week to show God's loyal love to someone in your life?”*
- Have them write down their specific **action to take**. Then in groups of two or three, have them share what action they plan to take. Finally, have them pray for one another.

tell someone they know

- Ask whom they know who might be interested in hearing about what they are learning.
- Have them write the name after **person to tell**. Then, in groups of two or three, have them share whom they plan to tell. Finally, have them pray for one another.
- Encourage them to tell those people in the next few days.

notes & preparation checklist

pray

- Pray for wisdom.
- Pray for group members.

connect

- Think of a good personal example to share.
- Decide when and how to transition from **connect** to **hear**.

notes & preparation checklist

hear

Alternate questions to ask:

Ruth 1:1-18

1. Why was Naomi so bitter at the Lord? (She felt abandoned and like He was not loyal to her)
2. How significant was it for Ruth to stay with Naomi?
3. To you, what is the most beautiful part of Ruth's loyalty oath in verses 16-18?

Ruth 2:1-12, 19-20

1. Why did Boaz show kindness to Ruth?
2. What are the odds that Boaz would be related to Ruth?
3. God is not mentioned as acting in this entire story. Even so, how do you see Him at work?

○ Ruth 4:1-17

1. Why didn't the kinsman-redeemer want to marry Ruth?
2. How does Boaz marrying Ruth show God's loyal love to Ruth and Naomi?
3. Some people have said this story should be called “Naomi” instead of “Ruth”. Why would they say this? What is God trying to do in the life of Naomi?
4. Who was Ruth's grandson? How does this show that God is loyal to His people (both individually and as a group)?

notes & preparation checklist

apply

- Decide when and how to transition from **hear** to **apply**.
- Be prepared to encourage people to a specific action step. Have an example in mind.
- Print Mini Journal

notes & preparation checklist

tell

- Commit to encourage people to do this despite their natural tendency not to.
- Look for group members who “tell” easily. They may be good at leading their own group soon.

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lesson learned



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