

# SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

## The Ruth Romance

Questions written by Pastor Miles McPherson

November 25, 2007



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Would you like to lead or host a small group?** Our next Small Group Training is Saturday, December 1 and 8. For details or to register, go to <http://www.therocksandiego.org/eventcalendar/3512/>.

**For all other Rock events,** please go <http://www.therocksandiego.org/eventcalendar/>.

## MINISTRY PRAYER REQUESTS

*As "small groupies," you are the heart and soul of this ministry--who better than you to lift up the Small Group Ministry in prayer? So, it's up to you, you can spend time in your small group praying for these things (weekly or occasionally), or you can pray during the week on your own time. And if you'd like to be added to our Pastor's Prayer Team, just let us know. Mark Collins, the Small Group Pastor, would love your prayers! We send out a monthly email of his personal and ministry prayer requests. Just contact Andy Rodgers at [andy.rodgers@therocksandiego.org](mailto:andy.rodgers@therocksandiego.org). May God work through your prayers mightily!*

**Reaching the Lost:** Please pray that God would continue to draw the lost both to the Rock and our small groups.

**Current Small Group Leaders/Small Groups:** Pray for perseverance, wisdom, and guidance for our small group leaders as they lead their groups this fall season. Pray that our small groups would truly be a place to grow in deep relationship with God and one another.

**Potential Small Group Leaders:** Pray for those who have signed up over the last month expressing interest in leading and/or hosting a small group; training and deployment are the next steps.

**Small Group Staff:** Pray that God would renew our strength and give us His vision for small groups as we continue our planning for 2008.

**The Rock Body:** Let's give thanks for how God has moved in our church and community to come together and help those affected by the recent fires. Please also pray that our church body would continue to be a source of encouragement and support for those in need.

## MEMORY VERSE

*Don't urge me to leave you or turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you will stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your god my god. Ruth 1:16*

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS – JUST STOP AND THANK!

From "Bridget Jones Diary" to "Legally Blonde," "Chick Flicks" have long been both loved by women and hated by most men (especially when they are around other men). Experts identify "Chick Culture" as primarily twenty to thirty something, middle-class and frequently college-educated women. "Chick Flicks" have been described as movies that have improbable love stories filled with struggle, but happy endings. The trick to a good "Chick Flick" is the ending, which has to be happy, but not sappy.

No matter your gender, everyone on the planet needs to be loved and have a sense of belonging. In fact, all of us are on a collision course with a powerfully dramatic romance from our Creator, but all too often we don't see the plot twists. We are like a helpless damsel in desperate need to be delivered by a faithful hero who is willing to be completely self-sacrificing to show His dynamic love. Unfortunately most people die without ever knowing that God is pursuing them.

### *Getting Started*

1. Discuss your favorite "Chick Flick" and outline why the story is appealing? What are the components of a great "Chick Flick?"

### *Digging Deeper*

2. Read Ruth chapter 1. Spend some time writing down the acts of faith and unbelief of the three women. Then compare them to one another.
3. Read Ruth 1:1-5.
  - a. In ancient times, what would life be like without husbands or sons? What was the economic climate did the characters in this story find themselves?
  - b. When you were growing up what was the economic climate like for your family?
  - c. Can you describe a time when you felt afraid and alone in the world?

4. Read Ruth 1:6-8.
  - a. What attitudes do you think Naomi and Ruth faced when they returned to Judah?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Why did the Jews hate the people from Moab (see Genesis 19:30-38; Numbers 25:1-3 and Deuteronomy 23:2-4)?
  
5. Read Ruth 1:9-13.
  - a. Given the social and economic situation that Naomi found herself in, do you think it was surprising that she urged her daughters to return home?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. How did Naomi's circumstances affect her faith? Why?
  
6. Read Ruth 1:14-18.
  - a. What was at risk if Ruth stayed with Naomi? Like Ruth, have you ever had to crossover to another ethnic or cultural group? Were you able to assimilate or did you remain a stranger? What kinds of groups do you feel like a stranger among?
  
7. Read Ruth 1:19-22.
  - a. When Naomi returned from Moab she didn't try to put on a false front, but she was truthful with her people. Do you think this was difficult considering the way that the Jews hated the Moabites?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Is it ever difficult for you to tell God's people the truth about your life? What seems to be some of the barriers? Have you embraced God's people as your own?

***Bringing it Home***

8. Can you share with the group about a difficult circumstance that you have experienced over the last year? Did you cope like Naomi, Orpah or Ruth? Please explain. Who has been like Ruth to you in the moment of your crisis?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. Who is God calling you to demonstrate Ruth's loyalty in their time of desolation?