

# SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

## A Crazy Little Thing Called Love

Questions written by Pastor Miles McPherson

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Would you like to lead or host a small group?** Our next Small Group Training begins February and these groups will begin in April, so mark your calendar. If you'd like to be on our mailing list regarding Small Group events and trainings, email [carolyn.york@therocksandiego.org](mailto:carolyn.york@therocksandiego.org).

**Toys for Joy** is celebrating its 11th year of blessing needy children and families with that hope. This Christmas we're asking you to help by bringing a toy for a needy child or volunteering at the event (Friday, December 14). For more information, log onto <http://www.therocksandiego.org/eventcalendar/3526/>.

**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 a season of refreshment for our small group leaders during this holiday season and fresh vision for the upcoming year as they continue to pour into their small groups.

**Potential Small Group Leaders:** 40 people attended our recent Small Group Leadership Training. Can you keep them in your prayers? The goal is to have them start their groups in January.

**Small Group Staff:** Due to our current staffing situation, can you pray that God would give us His wisdom in how to spend our time and efforts?

**The Rock Body:** Please pray that our church would continue to grow in relationship with the Lord and follow in His ways. *Just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.* Colossians 2:6-7

## 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 – A CRAZY LITTLE THING CALLED LOVE

There has never been a time in our culture's history when it had a greater pre-occupation with love and romance. Surprisingly with divorce rates rising and the number of people inside and outside the church deciding to just "live-together," hope still springs eternal that couples will have a storybook ending with their relationships. In fact, "And they lived happily ever after" maybe one of the most tragic sentences in popular literature.

Check out some of these statistics. In 2006, Romance Literature generated 1.37 billion dollars in sales and more than 6,400 romance titles were released; this is more than any other genre. Romance fiction outsold every other market category with the exception of religion/inspirational. What's even more amazing is the fact that 26.4 of all the books sold in the U.S. last year were romantic in their subject matter.

Sadly, most of these books paint an unrealistic and ungodly view of romance, love and marriage. Yet the love story set in the book of Ruth shows us a completely different approach. Instead of tending to her own needs when her husband died, Ruth decided to concentrate her love and devotion toward her mother-in-law. Instead of returning to her homeland, she decided to make sure that Naomi survived by working long hours gathering in fields where she would be viewed as an unwanted alien. Because of her selfless acts, Ruth not only caught the attention of Boaz, she kept it. Eventually, because of God's concern for all people, even a foreign widow who was considered one of Israel's enemies and an older distinguished gentleman eventually became an unlikely couple who seemed to really live "happily ever after."

### *Getting Started*

1. The word "love" may be the most used but little understood word in the English language. This exercise will help you define love in your own terms. Take a few minutes to prioritize this list (1 being most important and 10 being least). Then, circle the top three attributes of love and write a personal definition that incorporates them.

- \_\_\_ acceptance
- \_\_\_ caring
- \_\_\_ commitment
- \_\_\_ concern for the other's well-being
- \_\_\_ friendship
- \_\_\_ honesty
- \_\_\_ interest in one another
- \_\_\_ loyalty
- \_\_\_ respect
- \_\_\_ supportiveness
- \_\_\_ trust

### *Digging Deeper*

2. Read Ruth Chapter 2 in its entirety. In the beginning of Chapter 2, what signs of hope do you see in comparison to the beginning of Chapter 1?
  
3. Read Ruth 2:1-2. If you suddenly had no means of supporting yourself, how do you think you would react? Would you be Orpah (return to the safety of your family), like Naomi (become bitter and afraid), or like Ruth (humble and willing to do whatever it took)? Would you ask your small group for help?
  
4. Read Ruth 2:3. Scripture has a lot to say concerning the poor. How do you feel towards the poor who are supported by society?
  
5. The Bible speaks of the righteous poor and unrighteous poor people. According to Leviticus 19:9-10 and Deuteronomy 24:19-22 who were the righteous poor? How could the poor find dignity?
  
6. Read Ruth 2:4-10.
  - a. What do you most admire about Boaz in the story?
    - His love and respect for his workers
    - His respect for a woman outside his culture
    - His initiative to protect Ruth from harm and sexual harassment
    - His generosity towards the poor
  
  - b. If applicable for the guys: How would you rate yourself in these categories?
  
  - c. What do you most admire about Ruth in the story?
    - Her willingness and courage to take risks
    - Her loyalty to those she loved
    - Her discipline to work long and hard hours
    - Her respect and appreciation for others
  
  - d. If applicable for the women: How would you rate yourself in these categories?

7. Read Ruth 2:11-18. Meeting for the first time, Boaz initiates a conversation with Ruth despite the fact she was probably dirty and sweaty, not a virgin, not from a good family, and poor. Yet she found favor in Boaz's eyes and eventually his heart. How did Boaz follow the advice of Paul in 1 Timothy 5:1? How did Boaz treat Ruth with great respect? How easily would it been for Boaz to take advantage of her?
  
8. Read Ruth 2:19-23. Although Naomi up to this point had struggled with fear and bitterness, she was truly impressed with how God was providing for her needs through Ruth and Boaz. Just as Naomi pronounced a blessing on Boaz, what are some of the blessing that Jesus has spoken concerning you? How is Jesus providing for your needs?

### ***Bringing it Home***

9. When it comes to relating with others, what lesson from this story do you need to apply (use the list below)? Take some time and pray for one another.
  - Learn to cheerfully bless others on a regular basis
  - Provide safety for those in trouble
  - Help to build up and support people (practically, spiritually, emotionally when they are suffering from terrible circumstances)
  - Show gratitude for the help I receive, by letting others help me
  - Respect and be generous with those who work for me
  - Respect those I work for and be faithful in my duties
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_