

Use the following thoughts and questions to have one spiritual conversation. You can pick and choose, use them all or just allow the statement to be your guide. The emphasis shouldn't be about having all the answers, but simply having a conversation.

Scripture

Ruth 1:1-9,16-18; 2:1-3,8-12; 4:13-17

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

God shows steadfast love and undeserved kindness to those who trust in Him.

This main point is the biblical truth the student's study was built around. Each week there will be one statement that ties the whole study together. These would be great statements to remember together. The hope is that thoughts and ideas will stem from these statements. You can also begin by sharing a thought of your own that you learned during your study of the same session. Ask what thoughts were surprising as the study was taught.

2. Thought From the Study

The most important question in this book comes from Ruth: "Why are you so kind to notice me, although I am a foreigner?" (v. 10) Boaz's answer, on the surface, sounded like he was doing so because Ruth had been so good to her mother-in-law, Naomi. But the real answer comes in verse 12 when Boaz said that she had come to take refuge under the wings of the God of Israel. In other words, "This kindness is coming to you from the Lord, through me, because of your faith in God." All of Ruth's noble actions were a demonstration of her faith in the Lord. She'd chosen the Lord over any earthly comforts.

► **What would you be willing to sacrifice to meet the physical needs of a friend? to meet their spiritual needs?**

3. Quote for Discussion

Discuss this quote together. How does this change your understanding of a relationship with Jesus?

"Life is not a straight line leading from one blessing to the next and then finally to heaven. Life is a winding and troubled road. Switchback after switchback. And the point of biblical stories like Joseph and Job and Esther and Ruth is to help us feel in our bones (not just know in our heads) that God is for us in all these strange turns. God is not just showing up after the trouble and cleaning it up. He is plotting the course and managing the troubles with far-reaching purposes for our good and for the glory of Jesus Christ." —John Piper, *A Sweet and Bitter Providence: Sex, Race, and the Sovereignty of God*

4. Conversation Questions

Use these questions to begin thinking through and applying the lessons to your family life:

- 1. How does our family show love to one another in the middle of pain and tragedy?**
- 2. Ruth made incredible sacrifices to remain with Naomi. What are some sacrifices our family has made for one another?**
- 3. In what ways might our family's love for one another be a reflection to others of God's love?**
- 4. How has God proven His "unyielding" and steadfast love to us? to you personally?**