



UP - a time of worship...

You might want to listen to the song Oceans (You Tube have various versions) or sing it together as a group and ask God to speak to us about a readiness to step out in faith to go beyond our comfortable borders – as individuals and as a life group.

IN - this week for me...

- Share with the group a time when you took a risk outside your comfort zone.
- What, if any, risks are you facing at the moment?

UP/IN/OUT - the example of the risk taker...

READ: *Ruth 1*

Try to put yourselves in Ruth's shoes at THIS PARTICULAR TIME, where she had no idea what the outcome would be:

- How do you think she was feeling at this point?
- What risks was Ruth taking and why do you think she did it?
- What do you admire most about Ruth from this part of her story?
- Does this remind you of any situations or relationships in your own life?

The result of Ruth's obedience was her marriage to Boaz and the fact that her grandson was King David and she was in the lineage of Jesus. (Matthew 1:5)

- Can you think of a result of a risky step of faith that you've taken that has already shown a positive and possibly unexpected result?

OUT - The Risks of faith that I am facing ...

The risks we take for God can be big, life changing things, or small, everyday things which can still be a scary step of faith beyond our comfort zone. Let's ask God every morning this week to help us take the following risks for Him. Here are some ideas to talk about:

- Tell someone this week that you'll pray for them (and remember to do it!)
- Do a kind act for someone in need that costs you something – time, money or pride
- Share something about your faith with someone.

Pray together for God to give you opportunities this week for this challenge and the boldness and wisdom to take those opportunities and move forward in faith.

BIBLE READING:

Ruth 1 (NIVUK)

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. The man's name was Elimelek, his wife's name was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to Moab and lived there.

Now Elimelek, Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband.

When Naomi heard in Moab that the Lord had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them, she and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there. With her two daughters-in-law she left the place where she had been living and set out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah.

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. 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 and said to her, 'We will go back with you to your people.'

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? 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 – 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!'

At this they wept aloud again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her. 'Look,' said Naomi, 'your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her.' But Ruth replied, 'Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.' 18 When Naomi realised that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.

LIFEgroup
Notes