



GROUP ICE BREAKER

During times of waiting, what strategies are most effective to help you maintain a positive outlook?

REVIEW LAST WEEK'S NEXT STEPS

What, if any, next step did you commit to last week, how did it go?

- I will trust the unknown of my future to an all-knowing God.
- I will meditate on Psalm 46:10 this week.
- I will do the next best thing I can to continue moving forward.
- I will mark the milestones of God's faithfulness as a remembrance of His grace to me.

THIS WEEK'S SERMON RECAP

Transitions begin with an ending, then into the space in-between of what was and what's to come, and end at the beginning. Often times, we mistake transitions simply for change, and miss the inner, deeper transformation. We are left reliving or repeating the past. From hopeless to hopeful, from despair to worship, from an end to a beginning, God is transforming us. God has always been passionate about redeeming people and giving new beginnings. In these transitions we learn to wait and trust in God. Transformation is the true destination of transition, transition is the process by which one "dies to a new life." Transitions are an opportunity to re-establish what defines the identity of our lives--it's not what we do but whose we are. Transitions are not opportunities to "reinvent" ourselves but to re-identify with who we are in Christ. We re-identify with this fact: Jesus loves me, died for me and has redeemed my life through His.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Ruth 4:13-17. With risk came reward. Some they got to see; some came after they were gone. What were the rewards for Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz, both short-term and long-term? Why is it so hard for us to see these rewards coming when we are in the middle of transition?
2. Read 1 Peter 5:6-11 and as a group, compare what you have learned about the story of Ruth and these instructions from Peter.
3. Read Philippians 1:6. How does the knowledge that God will finish his work in you encourage you to persevere this week in the midst of your current stage of transition?
4. Have you ever lost an identity you'd built around yourself? Share with the group what that experience was like.
5. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-21. How do we see the idea of the guardian-redeemer within these verses?
6. We've seen there was a broader theme at play in the lives of Naomi and Ruth. Think about your life from a broader perspective. Are there any themes that you can see God bringing out as a result of transitions? Share with the group.
7. How has your perspective changed about transitions during this series? What will you think or do differently as a result?

TRANSITIONS

A NEW BEGINNING

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NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)

- I will resist the temptation to rush ahead of God on the threshold of a new beginning
- I will lean into and trust God's transforming work in my life through transition
- I will re-establish my identity by who I am in Christ

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Ruth 3-4
- Ezekiel 16:8
- Romans 8:25
- Job 42:12
- Romans 8:28
- 2 Corinthians 5:17