



Real Relationships

Life Investment - Naomi and Ruth

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Real-relationships require investment. Investing in others and allowing others to invest in you is a lifestyle. The story of Naomi and Ruth illustrate a lifestyle of investment.

“After a short while on the road, Naomi told her two daughters-in-law, “Go back. Go home and live with your mothers. And may God treat you as graciously as you treated your deceased husbands and me. May God give each of you a new home and a new husband!” She kissed them and they cried openly.” Ruth 1:8-9 (MSG)

“But Ruth said, ‘Don't force me to leave you; don't make me go home. Where you go, I go; and where you live, I'll live. Your people are my people, your God is my god; where you die, I'll die, and that's where I'll be buried, so help me God—not even death itself is going to come between us!’ When Naomi saw that Ruth had her heart set on going with her, she gave in. And so the two of them traveled on together to Bethlehem.”

Ruth 1:16-18 (MSG)

- 1. From these scriptures, what stands out to you about Naomi? About Ruth?**
- 2. How would you describe their relationship?**

Throughout Naomi and Ruth’s relationship we observe the traits of a lifestyle of investing in others and being invested in. (For the complete story, read the Old Testament book of Ruth.) Lifestyle investment includes:

- Loyalty

- 3. How would you define loyalty?**

- 4. Share a relationship you are in now that you would define as loyal?**

- Commitment

5. Why is commitment necessary in a real-relationship?

**6. Would you say you live a lifestyle of commitment in your relationships?
Why or why not?**

- Selfless

7. What does a selfless lifestyle look like?

8. What hinders you from being selfless in your relationships?

- Trustworthy

**9. How do you determine whether or not someone is trustworthy?
(try to explain without using the word ‘trust’)**

10. How important is it to you that a person is trustworthy?

- Respect

11. In our world today, what is the overall attitude toward respecting one another? Give some specific examples.

12. What is the biblical view of respect?

Family Connect Discussion Starter:

Share the story of Naomi and Ruth. Discuss the relationship between Naomi and Ruth. Ask your family members if they have that type of relationship with anyone.