

Optional Starter Question: What Netflix series did you binge on in 2020 with the extra free time due to quarantining?

INTRODUCTION

All of us have been stuck in a spot where something needs to change. Where staying the course is no longer an option. And sadly, many of us have stayed stuck because we let fear, confusion or despair hold us back from stepping out in faith that God will provide. What if we had a role model who could give us some guidance? In Ruth chapter 3, we see four ingredients Naomi and Ruth had which helped them take a bold step of faith in a stuck season of life: balanced motives, holy strategy, high character and outcome ambivalent.

Balanced Motive: You being in the equation isn't bad. You being first in the equation is bad.

Holy Strategy: A bold faith step without a holy strategy is not spirit led; it's ego led.

High Character: Character is who you are when no one is looking.

Outcome Ambivalent: We are responsible to take the step; God is responsible for the results.

DISCUSSION

Read Ruth 3 together and then discuss the following questions.

- 1. Naomi and Ruth overcame significant barriers to get unstuck. What do you imagine some of those barriers were?
- 2. As you consider Naomi's and Ruth's bold step of faith, which one of the four ingredients above stands out to you and why?
- 3. Is there one or more of the ingredients listed that you need to apply somewhere in your life? If so, which one and where?
- 4. Getting stuck is a normal part of life. It happens to all of us. What do you believe God wants to do in us as we experience these "stuck seasons" in life?
- 5. What inspiration can you draw from the book of Ruth so far that might encourage you in a current or future "stuck season"?

ACTION STEPS

- 1. If you are in a "stuck season," consider the four ingredients listed above and how you might need to implement one or more of them to get unstuck. Share your insights with a trusted friend.
- 2. Spend some time reflecting, praying and journaling about the last "stuck season" you were in and ask God to show you what He wanted you to learn. Don't waste an opportunity to grow spiritually and emotionally.
- 3. Connect with a friend, relative or co-worker who is stuck. Buy them breakfast, lunch or dinner and ask for prayer requests. Commit to praying and following up later with that person.