

WEEK 4: THE RIDE OR DIE



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SCRIPTURE: RUTH 1: 8-16

8 But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. 9 The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. 10 They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." 11 But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? 12 Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, 13 would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me." 14 Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

15 So she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." 16 But Ruth said,

"Do not press me to leave you
or to turn back from following you!
Where you go, I will go;
where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people,
and your God my God.

GETTING STARTED

Welcome to our fourth and final week of "Indispensable." This week, we're exploring the importance of having relationships that can make it through ANYTHING. To get started, talk about these questions:

- Who is your oldest friend? How long have you been in relationship with them? What has held your friendship with them together for so long?
- What are some of the characteristics of a relationship that can make it through anything?
- Pray together: God, thank you for all of the relationships in our lives and for all the gifts they bring us. Help us be faithful friends, partners, and companions to the people in our lives. Amen.

INDISPENSABLE

The Relationships You Can't Do Without

SERMON & SCRIPTURE DISCUSSION

Read this week's Scripture together, then discuss:

- Ruth is incredibly faithful to Naomi, even under difficult circumstances. What are some characteristics you see in her actions that demonstrate her commitment?
- Pastor Jevon explored how some relationships are seasonal. Why is it challenging for us to accept the seasonal nature of some of our relationships?
- Spend some time discussing the question that Pastor Jevon posed in his sermon: "As a friend are you worth following? What do your friends get as they follow you?"
- As we wrap up this series on relationships, what have you learned about your own relationships? What do you hope will be different going forward?

"God often decides to be present through people."

Rev. Dr. Jevon Caldwell-Gross

PRAYER REQUESTS