

RUTH

An Ode to Responsibility

Pastor Toby Locke • Week 2 • 1/16/2022



FIRST BAPTIST HORSEHEADS
LIFE GROUPS



Debrief Plan: 1/16/2022

A Recipe for Responsibility

Ruth 1:8-18

Introduction: Our society seems unwilling to take responsibility for anything; the book of Ruth is a biblical antidote for this!

Ruth's Recipe for Responsibility:

- ❑ _____ to take responsibility.
 - Choose _____ over _____.
 - Count the _____.
 - Take a leap of _____.
- ❑ _____ that you're taking responsibility.
 - To _____ those who are counting on you.
 - To _____ yourself fully to the task.
- ❑ _____ it.
 - _____ the _____.
 - Take _____.
 - Work _____.

Conclusion: The surprising reward for taking responsibility is the respect we earn from the people watching us.

Icebreakers:

1. Who is someone you deeply respect for their decision to take care of the people around them? Why did you choose them?
2. What was your first REAL responsibility in your life (a first job, or chore, etc.)? Was it good for you? Explain.

Sermon Summary: Naomi's daughter-in-law Ruth made the difficult decision to take care of her mother-in-law even though she had no legal obligation to do so, leaving a recipe to follow for those of us who want to take responsibility for our lives and for those who depend on us.

Discussion Questions:

**** Decide that you're taking responsibility.***

1. How does love for another person affect your desire for (and enjoyment of) your personal freedom?
2. What are the most common costs associated with taking responsibility?
3. When you decide to take responsibility (especially for something important), you never REALLY know how things are going to turn out. What helps us to take that leap of faith anyway?

**** Declare that you're taking responsibility.***

4. How important is it for our children to know that we take responsibility for them? What negative effects could it have to grow up without knowing that the adults in your life are taking responsibility for you?
5. How does it make you feel when someone that loves you makes it clear to you that they are taking responsibility to help you in a time of need?
6. Does publicly declaring your responsibility for something help motivate you to not give up when the times get hard? If so, how? If not, why not?

**** Do it.***

7. Why is it hard for us to sacrifice for others without making a big deal about it?
8. What advice would you give someone who was struggling to take initiative or who didn't know how to take initiative effectively?
9. Who is someone in your life that taught you the value of hard work? How important has that skill proved to be in your life?
10. Read 2:11-12. Boaz expresses his respect for Ruth's actions. Do people often express respect like that in relationships today? If not, why don't we? If you heard words like this from a friend, how much would it mean to you?