

# Living Large: Lessons From Old Testament Heroes”

Week 6: Beyond What's Expected

Ruth 1 & 2

**THE BIG IDEA:** God calls us to loyalty beyond what's expected—and when we act with loyalty, we reflect God's character to those around us.

## OPEN WITH PRAYER

**GETTING STARTED:** Discuss experiences with friends, or even strangers, who have gone beyond what's expected to offer help in times of need.

## LEARNING & APPLYING GOD'S WORD

**Together, read Ruth 1 & 2 (focus on 1:16-17, 2:11-12)**

**For more, check out my recent blog post, <http://cootsona.blogspot.com>**

1. Was there something in Greg's sermon that particularly stood out for you?
2. Are you in a difficult time right now, personally, economically, psychologically? Are you working on "Plan B" (or maybe "Plan X, Y, or Z")? Have you found people standing near you? In addition, what needs do you see in our city or our world?
3. The Hebrew word, *hesed*, is found several times in Ruth (1:8, 2:20, 3:10), and it means "loyalty, favor, loving kindness." In many ways, *hesed* is equivalent to "grace" in the New Testament, which means God's unmerited favor because of his covenant in Christ. Have you experienced God's *hesed*? Have you experienced through other people? In what ways?
4. Read Psalm 136. Why do you think the psalmist continues to repeat "for his steadfast loves endures forever"?
5. The New King James translates Proverbs 18:24 as follows: "A man *who has* friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend *who sticks* closer than a brother." Have you experienced loyal, steadfast friendships, the kind where someone really sticks closely?

6. One of the ways that God cares for us, that God demonstrates his providence for us, is through one another. Why do you think God chooses to use us instead of doing it himself directly? How have you seen God use human beings to care for those in need?

### **LIVING OUT “REAL LIFE”**

7. The message calls us to go beyond what’s expected in our loyalty to our friends, our city, and our world. What does that look like?
8. What is God calling you or your small group/RLG to do in response? How is God calling you to greater loyalty?

### **SHARING AND PRAYER (Prayer Requests)**

Take some time to share prayer requests, where you need to find God’s grace and peace. Be sure to give thanks for each other and pray for one another’s needs. When we pray together, we find the power of God.