

Bad Dates, Roommates & Soul Mates

Week 1

"Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment."

[Proverbs 18:1 (ESV)]

"In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land."

[Ruth 1:1]

1. We need biblical connection, not cultural isolation

"So she went out, entered a field and began to glean behind the harvesters. As it turned out, she was working in a field belonging to Boaz, who was from the clan of Elimelek."

[Ruth 2:3]

2. We need to trust in the hidden hand of a good God

"The Lord directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives."

[Psalm 37:23]

"Just then Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and greeted the harvesters, "The Lord be with you!" "The Lord bless you!" They answered.

Boaz asked the overseer of his harvesters, "Who does that young woman belong to?"

[Ruth 2:4-5]

"So Boaz said to Ruth, "My daughter, listen to me. Don't go and glean in another field and don't go away from here. Stay here with the women and work for me. Watch the field where the men are harvesting, and follow along after the women. I have told the men not to lay a hand on you. And whenever you are thirsty, go and get

a drink from the jars the men have filled. At this, she bowed down with her face to the ground. She asked him, "Why have I found such favor in your eyes that you notice me— a foreigner?" Boaz replied, "I've been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband-how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with a people you did not know before. May the Lord repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge."
[Ruth 2:8-12]

3. Singles: you need to become the kind of person you're looking for is looking for

Real Men:

- Have a relationship with God (2:4)
- Protect women, don't use them (2:9)
- Have generous hearts (2:16)

"May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge."
[Ruth 2:12]

Real Women

- Have a strong work ethic (2:7)
- Use wisdom with men (2:10)
- Trust in God, not people (2:12)

"So Naomi returned from Moab accompanied by Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, arriving in Bethlehem as the barley harvest was beginning."
[Ruth 1:22]

4. We need to return to the place of God's provision