

RECAP & REFLECT

Looking back at this past week:

- What false names did you notice showing up? (failure, not enough, overlooked, bitter, forgotten, etc.)"
- What triggered it?
- Were you able to catch yourself? If so, what truth did you replace it with?
- What was one way you saw evidence of your true identity show up this past week?

ICEBREAKER

Efrain's shared a story about "Santa Stan" illustrating how God's provision often comes through faithful people who show up consistently.

- Who has been a "Stan" in your life—someone whose regular presence became evidence of God's kindness?

IDEA 1

Read Ruth 2:8-23

The Levitical gleaning laws required landowners to leave the edges of fields and dropped grain for the poor. Boaz could have simply left the edges of his field unharvested and walked away—technically fulfilling the law. Instead, he went above and beyond. He approached God's law not with what Efrain described as a "cautious refrain but with a Godward reflex." He invited Ruth to stay in his fields, provided water from his servants, shared his meal, and instructed workers to "pull out some stalks" for her.

- What's the difference between obeying God's commands with a cautious refrain or a Godward reflex?
- Which one more accurately describes your current posture toward generosity?
- What transforms refrain into embodying God's abundant generosity? How do we cultivate the latter?

IDEA 2

Like Boaz moving towards Ruth, the sermon challenged us to move "from distance to proximity"—not just praying for people from afar but drawing near.

Efrain embodied this in his encounter with the lady at Stonic. He almost walked away from because he was broke, busy, and uncomfortable. She was intoxicated, asked for a lot, and it was inconvenient. Yet staying led to a divine encounter.

- What fears, discomfort, or inconvenience keep you at a distance from those in need?
- When has God asked you to stay in an uncomfortable or inconvenient situation? What happened when you did (or didn't) stay?
- At some point this week, you'll likely face an inconvenient opportunity. How can you prepare yourself to take one step closer from distance to proximity and embody God's provision in that moment?

EXPERIENCING GOD TOGETHER

Step 1: Quiet Reflection (1–2 minutes)

Invite everyone to sit quietly with open hands in their lap — a posture of receiving.

Read this short prompt slowly and clearly:

"Boaz left the edges of his field for others. God met Ruth's need through human kindness. Take a moment to imagine the field of your own life — your time, energy, home, relationships, and resources.

- Where might God already be providing for you?
- And what 'edges' might He be inviting you to leave open for others?"

Pause for 60–90 seconds of silence. Encourage deep breathing and awareness of God's presence.

Step 2: Pair or Triad Sharing (2 minutes)

Have participants turn to one or two others nearby and briefly share one insight:

- Something they noticed about God's provision in their life.
- Or one "edge" they sense God might be asking them to open — a way to embody His generosity.

Keep sharing concise so everyone gets a turn. Remind them to listen without fixing or commenting — simply witnessing what God is revealing.

Step 3: Communal Blessing Prayer (2 minutes)

Gather attention back to the group. Read this aloud as a closing prayer or blessing:

Leader: Lord of the harvest,

You meet our need with kindness and call us to do the same.

Group (together): Let our lives be fields of generosity.

Leader: Where we have abundance, teach us to share.

Where others are vulnerable, help us draw near.

Group: May our presence become Your providence.

Leader: As You provided for Ruth through Boaz,
provide through us — Your people — this week.

Group: Amen.

PRACTICE FOR THIS WEEK

How is God inviting you to embody his generosity this week, leaving "the edges" open for another person? Who needs you to be their "Stan"—not just a one-time helper, but a faithful, recurring presence in their life?

How specifically do you think you will be able to put this into practice this week? (When, where, with who, etc)

Below are some examples of what this could look like:

- Invite a co-worker or neighbor for a meal or coffee.
- Set aside part of your grocery budget to bless someone in need.
- Offer your time — listen, encourage, or simply be present.
- Write a note of gratitude or affirmation to someone who feels unseen.