



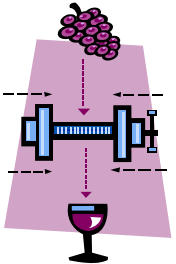
Woman of Strength: Proverbs 31 & the Story of Ruth

Community Reflection is Vineyard Boise’s small group leader resource to help you lead/facilitate your group effectively. It’s made up of four parts: **CONNECT**, **PROCESS**, **COMMIT**, and **SHARE**. It’s a basic plan for your group time as you track with our current Sunday teaching series. Leading a small group is as much an art as it is a science, so consider this a “palette” from which to draw colors for the “canvas” of your small group time. This guide is intended to be your servant, not your master! Be creative, have fun, and stay attentive to what God is doing in your group this week. The time listed for each of the four parts is just a guideline to help keep you on track as you lead your group. (Total suggested time, just under two hours.)



CONNECT (15-20 minutes)

1. Welcome everyone. If your group is new or you have new people in the group, take a few minutes to introduce yourselves.
2. You might consider having the group read a Psalm together as a lead into worship. Pick a favorite, or you could use **Psalm 45** (theme: the king and his bride). Let the Psalm lead you into group prayer and...
3. Worship! Live, CD, DVD, or however...worship is one of the best defenses against a purely intellectual group experience and really helps set the stage for what is usually the “main course” of a small group meeting – processing the truth together.



PROCESS (35-45 minutes)

1. This week we look towards Mother’s Day (at this point the teaching is planned to center on moms).
2. Ask your group how they did with their devotions this past week. What stood out as they worked through them? What questions or issues were raised?
3. Depending on who’s in your group and where they are in their spiritual journey, there are several good directions you could pursue:

Option A

Discussion/Teaching Option: The Story of Ruth

You can start by having the group take turns reading the entire book of Ruth. You might even assign different parts to different group members (narrator, Naomi, Ruth, Boaz) to turn it into more of a drama. Then ask the group to reflect on the story as a group:

- *Have your group do a character profile on each of the main character’s strengths and weaknesses. What do we learn from each?*
- *Go around the group and have each member share which character in Ruth they most identify with right now.*

Weekly Discipleship Track



1. Life reflection – need for change, hunger for God
2. Presentation of truth – teaching and studying
3. Processing the truth – reflection and debrief in community
4. Life change – response to truth, new habits and actions

Community Reflection

Option B

Celebrate your mom

Taking this option, you could seize the opportunity to build fellowship in the group by having each group member share about their mom – memories, impressions, strengths, weaknesses. This could develop into a volatile group session if there is woundedness relating to upbringing and parental relations, so be prepared to have the group focus on some fairly intense and significant ministry time. Sharing about our moms and our family upbringing cuts pretty quickly to the reality of who we are, so the rewards of building real relationship in the group are potentially very great – just be prepared for the potential intensity. You could conclude with a prayer of thanksgiving for our moms and perhaps a reading of Proverbs 31:10-31.

Option C

Bless moms in your group

This would be an option to pursue if you have a lot of moms in your group. Read Proverbs 31 and discuss the portrait of the “virtuous woman” and how they respond to that portrait. Then use the night to affirm all the moms present. You might read Proverbs 31 with their names inserted. Gather around each mom and pray for her. If the children are present, you might have them gather around as well. You might consider having a small group “banquet” in honor of the moms in your group. Be creative – affirm your moms!



COMMIT (5-10 minutes)

Have each group member commit to blessing his/her mom this week in some demonstrable, out of the ordinary way. Have each member commit to praying daily for any and all moms in the group this week.



SHARE (15-20 minutes)

If you haven't done so already, have group members share any prayer needs they may have. Take time to pray and minister to one another. You might close with some more worship time...and with some food!