

**Baycities Lomita Winter/Spring 2019 Growth Groups**  
**Series: “Community That Works”- John 13:34-35 Part 6**  
**Theme: “The Best Relationships... Make Commitment Their Friend”- Part 1**  
**Week Of February 10, 2019**

**Follow-Up Bible Study and Discussion Questions**

**Message Summary:** The power of commitment... it is the building block of real love! Love is not a feeling but a verb... you’ve heard that! Ruth puts love into action with her over the top commitment statement and then follows through by committing herself to Naomi her Mother-in-law! Who knew that her commitment would have such huge positive and even unexpected results: her commitment got her noticed by God and then by a man named Boaz. God honored her commitment to Naomi when the safe play was to go home to Moab! Ruth went back to Bethlehem to an unknown future with Naomi helping her survive any way she could. What happened? Ruth’s relational life was deeply and positively affected! She became famous for her commitment and it was so attractive to others... especially Boaz! (more on him next week!) So, when you think no one is watching, you’re wrong! People you don’t yet know are watching your life and glean encouragement and inspiration by how you love and carry on! God’s love never fails! Are you ready to put it to the test this Valentine’s Day? Commitment is actually where love begins and gets sustained ... and with it, you can build a future on that kind of love and lifestyle! Make commitment your friend... and watch what happens!

1. What about the story of Ruth so far parallels events in your life and experiences?

2. Naomi, Ruth & Orpah had been through major losses in their lives. It seemed like they handled them reasonably well but of course not perfectly since everyone mourns and adjusts to disruptive change differently. Discuss some things we can learn from Ruth, Naomi and Orpah’s lives that we could apply to our handling of future hard times that may arise in our lives?

3. At the center of real love, God's kind of love is Commitment! There are other flavors of love out there we come across all the time. Discuss the following kinds of love and the weaknesses or strengths of each to build a relationship on.

a. **I love you IF kind of love...** (Example: I love you if keep taking me out for dinner and I don't have to cook!)

b. **I love you BECAUSE kind of love...** (Example: I love you because you buy me nice things... because you work out so much... because you have a nice house!)

c. **I love you PERIOD...** (Example: Unconditionally... without reservations... I love you and I am committed to having your best interests in mind with all I do.)

4. How would your relational life be changed or affected if you increased the level of commitment you have to your loved ones (friends, mates, co-workers, etc.?)

a. What would that look like?

b. How do you think they might respond to your increased commitment to them?