



Marriage Growth-Track

Week 2 - Day 4

Following God's Lead

by Glen & Rebecca Davis

But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me." When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.

Ruth 1:16-18

Ruth could well be considered 'Exhibit A' when it comes to being a model of commitment. When she promised to follow Naomi, she meant to the bitter end. When she said she was 'all in' she meant it fully and completely. This is what we see from these verses:

- Ruth's commitment to follow Naomi was made before she knew what the outcome would be;
- Ruth displayed unwavering loyalty;
- Ruth had a desire to be lead and disciple by Naomi, following her in her faith and life;
- Ruth was determined to fulfill her commitment, not allowing anything to stop her until the end of her days;
- Ruth's determination influenced those around her

It isn't always easy to follow the call of God upon your heart—especially when things are going well. Or you're comfortable and life seems to have a nice, predictable pattern. Our first inclination is to 'keep on keeping on' rather than to invite new, unknown variables into our otherwise steady life. Yet that is precisely when our commitment to obedience of God's direction is so important.

One of our young FOTP families faced this challenge in—of all things—where to go to church. After attending the same church for 15 years, the husband felt the tug of The Lord upon his heart to find a new place to worship. But this was no easy decision for he and his family.

"We had been there 15 years. We dedicated our children there, my wife was baptized there, we served and we learned there. It was our church home and family in the truest sense of the words.

"I wrestled with God's direction and questioned it for a long time. Eventually I knew I had to obey...and tell my wife.

"We sat on the couch one night and I told her what I knew God had put upon my heart. And she cried...A LOT! She wasn't sure why God would have us leave so many close friends and a place we knew so well. Would we ever find this connection again?"

"Despite her questions and fears, she never once questioned following my lead. She knew that following me, as I obeyed God, was the best decision for her and our family. She displayed such tremendous loyalty and commitment to me by never arguing or challenging my decision.

"One weekend, the kids had spent the night at the grandparents' and, on our way to church, I spontaneously said, 'I think we should try this one,' as I whipped into the parking lot at the FOTP Haslet campus. My wife just smiled, trusting my lead because she knew I had actually prayerfully considered what seemed like a spur-of-the-moment decision. From that day forward, we have never attended another church. FOTP has truly become our church family. Just like Ruth, my wife was unquestionably committed to me. She trusted me, despite her fears and not knowing the outcome of our church move."

Commitment like this is becoming increasingly rare but more important than ever. God rarely promises the outcome, but He does promise to be there when we are obedient in following the call He places upon our hearts.

Discussion Questions:

1. Are you actively seeking God's Will for your life?
2. As a couple are you seeking God's Will for your marriage?

Action Steps:

Make a plan to pray together every night and ask God for direction in your life and marriage.

Prayer:

"Father, thank you for guidance and wisdom. Thank you for putting people in our lives that we can learn from and follow, knowing that they are diligently seeking your face. You are Jehovah Jireh, our provider, and you will provide us with people we need in our lives to disciple and direct us, encourage and correct us. Please give us the strength to commit to following the lead of these people even in spite of our fears and questions. Give us a peace that cannot be explained as we apply this to our lives."

