RE-READING RUTH IN THE CONTEXT OF HIV AND 'SUGAR-DADDY' SEX

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CBS QUESTIONS

 Question 1: Using the art images of the story of Ruth, re-tell the story in your small groups.





- Question 2: Re-read Ruth 2:1-17 in small groups.
 - Who takes the initiative for their survival when they arrive in Naomi's context?
 - What does Ruth do to ensure they have food?
 - How do you understand Ruth's request in verse 7a?
- Question 3: In the relationship between Ruth and Boaz it seems that it is Boaz who first notices Ruth.
 - What do we know about Boaz?
 - How does Boaz find out who Ruth is?
 - What questions does Boaz ask about her?
 - What do you think his motives are when he asks about her, talks to her, and helps her?
- Question 4: How does Ruth respond to Boaz?
 - Why does she respond as she does in verse 10?
 - Is there a shift in her response to Boaz in verse 13?
 - What do you think her hopes and fears are as she engages with him?

Question 5: Re-read Ruth 3:1-18 in small groups.

- What is Naomi worried about in verse 1?
- What is Naomi's plan of action in verses 2-4?
- Why do you think Naomi encourages Ruth to have a sexual relationship with Boaz?

Question 6: How does Ruth respond to Naomi?

- What is Ruth's immediate response to Naomi?
- What do you think her hopes and fears are as she walks towards the threshing floor at night?
- What kinds of concerns do you think Ruth has as she initiates a sexual relationship with Boaz?
- In what ways is Ruth vulnerable in her new context?

- Question 7: In what ways is the relationship between Boaz and Ruth a 'sugar daddy' or 'blesser' relationship?
- Question 8: What are the characteristics of a 'sugar daddy' and a 'blesser' relationship in your context?
- Question 9: What are the risks and what are the benefits for a young woman in a 'sugar daddy' or 'blesser' relationship?
- Question 10: What social and religious structures must we engage with in order to address the 'sugar daddy'/ 'blesser' situation? What from your perspective needs to change?