

THE GOSPEL PROJECT

UNIT 09

GOD CARES FOR HIS PEOPLE



RUTH; 1 SAMUEL



MEMORY VERSE

“I will raise up a faithful priest for myself.
He will do whatever is in my heart and mind.
I will establish a lasting dynasty for him, and
he will walk before my anointed one for all time.”

—1 Samuel 2:35



GOD REDEEMS HIS PEOPLE

CORE PASSAGE: RUTH 1:22; 3:5-13; 4:13-17

CONTEXT

During the time of the judges, everyone did what seemed right in their own eyes. During a particular famine, Elimelech and his family moved from Bethlehem to Moab. While there, Elimelech and his sons died, leaving his wife, Naomi, and two daughters-in-law. Naomi decided to return to Bethlehem, and Ruth, though a foreigner, vowed to stay with her. Once in Bethlehem, the women had no one to care for them, so Ruth went out to glean in the barley fields of Boaz. More than a love story, the story of Ruth is a picture of loss and redemption.

KEY CONCEPT

No one is beyond the reach of God's redemption.

As you examine Ruth 1:22; 3:5-13; 4:13-17:

- Recognize that Ruth chose not only to stay with Naomi but she chose to turn away from her family's gods and trust in the one true God.
- Consider how Boaz as a family redeemer points to Christ, who redeems us from sin and death.



TIMELINE

Naomi's Husband and Sons Die in Moab;
Ruth Returns with Naomi to Bethlehem (Ruth 1)

Naomi Instructs Ruth to Approach Boaz
(Ruth 3)

Ruth Gleans in Boaz's Field, and Boaz Provides
Protection for Her (Ruth 2)

SESSION STUDY:
Boaz Redeems Ruth; Obed Is Born (Ruth 4)

Daily Readings

☐ **Day 1:** Ruth 1:1-22

☐ **Day 2:** Ruth 2:1-18

☐ **Day 3:** Ruth 2:19-23

☐ **Day 4:** Ruth 3:1-18

☐ **Day 5:** Ruth 4:1-22

☐ **Day 6:** Psalm 130



Scan this QR code
to access this session's
Scripture passages.

PERSONAL PREPARATION

RUTH 1:22; 3:5-13

GOD IS IN THE WORK OF REDEMPTION.

Highlight actions and words Ruth used to let Boaz know she wanted him to be her family redeemer.

22 So Naomi came back from the territory of Moab with her daughter-in-law Ruth the Moabitess. They arrived in Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

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5 So Ruth said to her, "I will do everything you say." **6** She went down to the threshing floor and did everything her mother-in-law had charged her to do. **7** After Boaz ate, drank, and was in good spirits, he went to lie down at the end of the pile of barley, and she came secretly, uncovered his feet, and lay down. **8** At midnight, Boaz was startled, turned over, and there lying at his feet was a woman! **9** So he asked, "Who are you?" "I am Ruth, your servant," she replied. "Take me under your wing, for you are a family redeemer." **10** Then he said, "May the LORD bless you, my daughter. You have shown more kindness now than before, because you have not pursued younger men, whether rich or poor. **11** Now don't be afraid, my daughter. I will do for you whatever you say, since all the people in my town know that you are a woman of noble character. **12** Yes, it is true that I am a family redeemer, but there is a redeemer closer than I am. **13** Stay here tonight, and in the morning, if he wants to redeem you, that's good. Let him redeem you. But if he doesn't want to redeem you, as the LORD lives, I will. Now lie down until morning."

Key Concept: No one is beyond the reach of God's redemption.



Naomi's return to her homeland in Israel was full of sorrow because of the deaths of her husband and sons (1:3,5). Yet Ruth, one of her daughters-in-law, decided to follow Naomi. Ruth looked at Naomi's life, though tragic, and determined to follow her God, leaving behind the Moabite gods of her family.

Ruth declared an oath to Naomi and the one true God when she said: "Don't plead with me to abandon you or to return and not follow you. For wherever you go, I will go, and wherever you live, I will live; your people will be my people, and your God will be my God" (1:16).

When have you felt God leading you to go somewhere new as a step of faith?

one who had a responsibility to care for his extended family (2:19-20). God was at work in what "happened."

Ruth herself was a woman of "noble character," having cared for Naomi and committed herself to the Lord (2:11-12), yet she needed someone to look out for and care for her (3:1). So Naomi instructed Ruth on how to declare that need to her family redeemer (3:2-4). Boaz was honored by Ruth's request, but another redeemer had the right first. Boaz would approach the man the next day to see the Lord's will in the matter.

How can we discern when obedience to the Lord means we need to act and when we need to wait?

Both Naomi and Ruth suffered the grief of losing their spouses, but God was still with them to provide. They had no male protector and little resources on which to live, yet they arrived in Bethlehem just in time for the barley harvest. Ruth determined to support herself and Naomi through the hard work of gleaning, and she "happened" to join workers in the fields of noble Boaz, who was related to Elimelech, Naomi's late husband (2:1-18). Not only was Boaz a relative, he was a family redeemer,

WORD STUDY

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REDEEM: "To pay a price in order to secure the release of something or someone . . . paying what is required in order to liberate from oppression, enslavement, or another type of binding obligation."¹ God Himself serves as a redeemer for His people ultimately in Christ (Titus 2:14).

PERSONAL PREPARATION

RUTH 4:13-17

OUR FAITHFULNESS LEADS TO GOD'S GLORY.

Circle the events in Ruth's life that doubled as a blessing for Naomi.

13 Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. He slept with her, and the LORD granted conception to her, and she gave birth to a son. **14** The women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you without a family redeemer today. May his name become well known in Israel. **15** He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. Indeed, your daughter-in-law, who loves you and is better to you than seven sons, has given birth to him." **16** Naomi took the child, placed him on her lap, and became a mother to him. **17** The neighbor women said, "A son has been born to Naomi," and they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

THEOLOGY CONNECTION

THE GOSPEL: The gospel is an event and a story. First, it is an event that took place at a specific point in history: the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ for the redemption of sinners (1 Corinthians 15; 2 Corinthians 5:21). Second, it is the story of redemption that God planned before creation (Ephesians 1:4), which runs through Scripture and culminates in a restored, redeemed creation—a new heaven and new earth where sin, death, and suffering will never again plague humanity and God's people will live with Him forever (Isaiah 25:8; 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21). The event and story do not exist apart from or in conflict with each other but together inspire us to a life of devotion.

Key Concept: No one is beyond the reach of God's redemption.



Finally, the obstacles that prevented Boaz from marrying Ruth had been cleared. It was the blessing both of them had desired. Married to Naomi's son in Moab, Ruth had not been able to conceive a child. But with Boaz as her husband, through God's direct intervention, Ruth conceived and bore a son for Boaz who would also be a blessing for Naomi.

After Boaz and Ruth's son was born, the women in the town surrounded Naomi, celebrating God's blessing of a family redeemer for Naomi in this child. No longer would Naomi be destitute, but she would have a descendant to provide for her throughout her remaining years.

How has the Lord blessed you throughout your life?

Both Boaz and Ruth demonstrated a strong relationship with God. By faith Boaz respected the rights of another redeemer to take Ruth as his wife. He trusted God to work this out and said he would accept whatever God allowed to happen. Ruth placed her faith in God because of her mother-in-law and followed her into a foreign land. Because of these actions, both Boaz and Ruth were esteemed and the Lord was praised (4:11-12,14-15).

Only a sovereign God could produce such a family. He brought together two people on opposite ends of the social scale—a wealthy Hebrew man and an impoverished Moabite woman. And through their union, Boaz and Ruth became the great-grandparents of King David and genealogical ancestors of the incarnate Son of God, Jesus Christ. Jesus is the Redeemer for all humanity. Because of sin, we have forfeited God's gift of life, but Jesus gave His life to free us from sin and death so we could have abundant life with Him (John 10:10).

What are some ways your obedience to God can encourage others to praise the Lord?

GOSPEL CONNECTION



As Boaz redeemed Ruth, God blessed them, and their line would continue with David and on to Jesus, the ultimate Redeemer, who redeemed us from the debt of sin.

GOD'S REDEMPTION PLAN

For each of the passages below, record how the person's faith was revealed and how we see God's hand at every step.

FAITH REVEALED

GOD'S HAND

3:5-6 RUTH

3:10 BOAZ

4:14 THE WOMEN

4:16 NAOMI

What part does God's redemption play in the story of your life?
How can you look at your own life story and see God's hand always moving?

Key Concept: No one is beyond the reach of God's redemption.



HEAD

How does the story of Boaz and Ruth impact your thinking about redemption from sin and its effects?

PRAYING SCRIPTURE

Read Psalm 130. Reflect on all the reasons you need divine redemption, and praise the Lord that with Him there is redemption in abundance. Pray through the psalm, confessing your sins and waiting with hope for the full redemption He has made in Jesus Christ.



HEART

How do you need to pray regarding the circumstances you are experiencing in your life?

PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES



HANDS

What are some actions you can take so God may be praised for His glorious work of redemption in Christ?

