



REDEMPTION

Studies in Ruth

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Growing in Spirit & Truth

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The Back Story Ruth 3-4

To correctly interpret the meaning of an event it is important to get the “back story” - the context and progression of events that led to the current state. In this week’s study in Ruth we get the “back story” of King David’s genealogy. Since David was a picture of the coming Messiah, whom we know is Jesus, the book of Ruth provides some intriguing parallels to the drama of redemption. Ruth 3 begins by unfolding the basis of redemption. Naomi, Ruth’s mother-in-law, desiring security for Ruth (and herself) told her to bathe and anoint herself, and put on a dress so that she could make Boaz aware of her after dinner. She wasn’t tempting him to immorality, but seeking redemption from him as Na-

mi’s “go’el”, or “kinsman redeemer”. Boaz, as a near relative, could buy back the land that Naomi was about to sell, and in the process would receive Ruth as his wife, thus preserving the name of Naomi’s deceased son. Ruth obeyed and in the middle of the night Boaz discovered her, and while shocked that she had shown such wisdom to pursue him, agreed to redeem her and Naomi. However, since there was a closer relative, a battle for their redemption would ensue. When Boaz confronted him with his responsibility to redeem them he consented, but backed out when he realized that he would have to marry Ruth. With this obstacle removed Boaz then agreed to redeem Ruth and buy Naomi’s land.



**Even when we’re “lost at sea”
Jesus is God’s life preserver
to rescue or redeem us.**

With their redemption secured the blessings of redemption began to be manifested. The elders prayed that the Lord would make Ruth fruitful like their ancestors Rachel and Leah who built Israel, and Tamar who built the house of Judah. Tamar, who was a foreigner, was an excellent parallel to Ruth, who similarly would be folded into the family of Israel. When she conceived they all blessed the Lord, who had provided a redeemer for them. Their son was named Obed, who would be the father of Jesse, the father of David. Thus, the Messiah’s genealogy had been established by this back story.

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God’s family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for God’s mission

Study Questions for Ruth 3-4

(For answers go to [http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf/html/study questions](http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf/html/study%20questions))

<p>1. Read Ruth 3:1-5. What did Naomi want for Ruth (v1) and what did she tell her (v2)? How did she instruct her to do (v3-4) and what did she expect (v4)? What was Ruth’s response (v5)?</p>	
<p>2. In 3:6-10 what did Ruth do (v6-7) and when (v7)? What occurred (v8)? What did Boaz say and how did Ruth answer him (v9)? What was Boaz’ assessment of Ruth’s actions (v10)?</p>	
<p>3. From 3:11-14 what did Boaz promise Ruth and why (v11)? What did this specifically mean (v13), but what was the problem (v12-13)? What else did he want to insure regarding Ruth (v14)?</p>	

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Ruth 3-4 - Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. In Ruth 3:15-18 what did Boaz do next (v15)? When Ruth told Naomi about his actions (v16-17) what did she take it to mean (v18)? How would you describe his character?

5. According to 4:1-4 what did Boaz immediately do (v1, 2)? What did he explain to Naomi's closest relative (v3-4) and what was his answer (v4)? Why was redemption of land important (see Lev 25:23-25)?

6. Using 4:5-6 what else did Boaz disclose to the relative (v5) and why was this important (see Deut 25:5-6) how did he react to that (v6)? Why? What did this then allow Boaz to do (v6)?

7. From 4:7-8 explain the custom referred to (v7-8) and, using Deut 25:7-10, what it really said about the closest relative who would not redeem Ruth. What did Boaz then do (v9-10) and what does this say about him?

8. Based on 4:11-12 how did the elders respond (11-12)? What 2 examples of blessing did they use (v11, 12) and why was the second especially relevant (v12—see Gen 38).

9. Read 4:13-15. What did God do for Ruth (v13) and for Naomi (v14)? What blessing did the women give her (v15)? What spiritual principles can you glean from Naomi's life?

10. According to 4:16-22 who was the child in relation to Naomi (v16-17)? Who was he in relation to King David (v18-20)? Why would this be significant to Israel?

11 Summarize the story of redemption in Ruth 3-4—the basis of redemption (3), the battle for it (4:1-10), and the blessings of it (4:11-22). Compare this to what Jesus did for

Scripture to Remember

“Blessed is the Lord who has not left you without a redeemer today, and may his name become famous in Israel, may he also be to you a restorer of life, and sustainer of your old age.”

Ruth 4:14-15 (NASB)

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

We're on the web

www.thehospitalchurch.com

Life Group Questions—Acting Out—The Ministry Pattern (Acts 13-14)
(Using questions from Sunday's sermon, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship, helping us to grow in Christ.)

1. Share with the group some of the “patterns” you have in your life. Why do we adopt these?
2. Scan Act 13-14, looking at the 4 places Paul stopped on his first missionary journey (13:6, 14; 14:1, 8). Where did Paul always go 1st (13:5) and why? How can we apply this?
3. Review the 4 elements of Paul's ministry pattern—proclamation, persecution, perseverance, production and what they mean. How did these happen at Paphos (13:6-12)?
4. What did Paul proclaim (13:17-41) and what “story” are we to proclaim? Discuss how we can get into a position to do this and some various ways this could be presented.
5. Talk about how persecution occurs today and why it does. Discuss whether persecution itself bothers you, or if it's really just the fear of it. How can we overcome this?
6. What do you think enabled Paul to persevere through opposition and persecution? How can we help one another with this?
7. Each one share about how productive or fruitful for Christ they think they are. Talk specifically about what gets in the way and how this can improve.