

# **Book of Ruth**

## **Lesson 3**

Naomi has returned to her home in the promised land of Israel without her husband and two sons, who died during their sojourn in the land of Moab. She considers her life “empty” because of the loss of her family, even though her daughter-in-law Ruth has returned with Naomi and pledged allegiance to her and Naomi’s God (Ruth 1:16).

Soon after their return to Bethlehem, Ruth asks permission to pick up leftover grain in the fields behind anyone who might show her favor (Ruth 2:2). With permission to go, Ruth providentially finds herself working in a field belonging to Boaz, a man of good standing in the community and a clansman of Naomi’s husband Elimelech. Boaz notices Ruth, advises her to stay with the servant girls in his field to avoid unwanted advances from harvesters in other fields, and makes sure she has extra grain for herself and Naomi.

When Ruth returns home, she tells Naomi that she worked in a field owned by Boaz. Naomi is amazed. She knows that Boaz is close relative, a kinsman-redeemer, who has shown great kindness to them (Ruth 2:20) and their clan. For the first time since the story began, Naomi and Ruth have a glimmer of hope as they realize that God is watching over them and providing for their needs through Boaz.

As you prepare to study, take a moment to pray and ask God for insight into this beautiful story of redemption.

## **A Plan for Redemption**

While Ruth and Naomi are encouraged by the kindness shown by Boaz, they know that the harvest season will soon end. What will happen to them then?

1. Read Ruth 3:1-5.

A. Naomi has a plan. What two questions does she ask Ruth?

B. What might be the purpose behind Naomi's rhetorical questions?

C. What instructions does Naomi give to Ruth?

D. How does Ruth respond to the questions and instructions?  
What does the dialogue between the two women suggest about their relationship?

## **A Claim for Redemption**

2. Read Ruth 3:6-9.

A. From verses 6 and 7, what does Ruth do?

B. From verse 8, what happens to Boaz in the middle of the night?

C. From verse 9

(1) What question does Boaz ask?

(2) What is Ruth's response?

(3) How does Ruth's reply to Boaz reflect an attitude of humility as well as a righteous appeal to his honor, according to the instructions in Deuteronomy 25:5-10?

- (4) Boaz had revealed earlier to Ruth that he was told what she had done for Naomi since the death of her own husband—how she had left her parents and homeland to live with a people she did not know. Boaz then adds a blessing: “May the Lord repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge” (Ruth 2:11-12).

The Hebrew word for “corner” in Ruth 3:9 is translated “wings” in Ruth 2:12. How has God providentially provided Boaz the opportunity to be a central figure in His plan to bless Ruth and Naomi through Boaz’s own blessing of Ruth?

3. Personal reflection: Has God ever providentially given you the opportunity to bless someone by extending grace or kindness to meet a need? If so, what were the circumstances, and what was the outcome?

4. Personal reflection: Refer to John 3:16 and 11:25-26. Have you ever turned to God with a personal request for redemption through Jesus Christ? If so, what were the circumstances, and what was the outcome? If you have not, is there some issue holding you back? Share with others if you are comfortable in doing so.

### **A Pledge of Redemption**

5. Read Ruth 3:10-15.
  - A. How does Boaz's response to Ruth's appeal reflect
    - (1) Respect for her
    - (2) Humility
    - (3) His honorable character

(4) His concern and provision for Ruth

B. To this point in the story, what appeals to you about the character traits of

(1) Naomi

(2) Ruth

(3) Boaz

## The Anticipation of Redemption

6. Read Ruth 3:16-18.
  - A. What does Naomi ask when Ruth returns from the threshing floor?
  - B. How does Ruth's answer encourage both Naomi and Ruth?
  - C. How does Naomi reveal her astute understanding of the matter at hand? How do Naomi's remarks provide insight into Boaz's character?
  
7. What do the following verses reveal about the Lord Jesus Christ, our kinsman-redeemer?
  - A. Psalm 27:1, 13-14
  - B. Psalm 31:24

C. Psalm 34:22

D. Psalm 37

(1) Verse 3

(2) Verse 4

(3) Verses 5-6

(4) Verses 7 and 34

(5) Verses 39-40