

# **Book of Ruth**

## **Lesson 4**

Naomi proposes a bold idea to Ruth, who agrees to do what Naomi has suggested. Following Naomi's plan, Ruth goes to the threshing floor to claim redemption by Boaz at the appropriate time. After Boaz has fallen asleep, Ruth stealthily uncovers his feet and lies down nearby. When Boaz wakes in the night, he is startled to find a woman lying at his feet and asks who she is. Ruth reveals her identity and asks Boaz to extend his protection to her and Naomi.

Overwhelmed by her request, Boaz responds with humility and kindness, and blesses Ruth for having asked him to redeem her. After assuring her that he is ready and eager to fulfill the responsibilities of kinsman-redeemer, Boaz cautions that there is a complication, for there is a man more closely related to Naomi and Ruth with the right to redeem. Boaz sends Ruth home with a gift of grain and a promise that he will certainly redeem if the closer relative chooses not to do so.

Ruth returns to Naomi with news of all that has happened and the gift Boaz has given. Naomi tells Ruth that Boaz will not rest until the matter is settled that very day.

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

## **Redemption's Rewards**

In the concluding chapter of the Book of Ruth, we shall see that both the kinsman-redeemer and the redeemed participate in and share the joy of redemption. We shall also observe the loss of blessing for the kinsman who refused the opportunity to redeem when it was offered to him.

## **Redemption Refused**

1. Read Ruth 4:1-6.
  - A. From the initial part of verse one, what does Boaz do first?
  - B. Refer to a biblical footnote or commentary to discover the significance of the town or city gate. What is typically accomplished there?
  - C. From verse one, who comes along after Boaz?
  - D. Why do you think the author of the story does not identify the relative by name?
  - E. What does Boaz ask of his relative?

2. Read Ruth 4:2. Why do you think Boaz asks ten elders of the town to join them at the gate?
  
3. Read Ruth 4:3-4.
  - A. What does Boaz propose to his relative within the hearing of the town elders?
  
  - B. How does the relative reply to Boaz's proposal?
  
4. Read Ruth 4:5-8.
  - A. Upon his relative's answer, what other stipulations does Boaz add to guarantee that the relative fulfills all his responsibilities as kinsman-redeemer?
  
  - B. What decision does the relative make after considering these additional obligations?





B. Ruth as redeemed

C. Naomi as redeemed

7. What do you view as the relational blessings and benefits experienced by

A. Boaz as kinsman-redeemer

B. Ruth and Naomi as the redeemed

8. Read Ephesians 1:3-8 and Colossians 1:9-14. From these references, consider how these blessings and benefits might be pleasing to

A. God as our Redeemer

B. us as the redeemed of God in Christ

9. For application: In our relationships with others, why are we to extend “redemption” when we can?

10. What blessings and benefits does the relative of Boaz forfeit because he declines to become a kinsman-redeemer?

11. Reflect upon your study of the Book of Ruth. What are some personal takeaways that you have gleaned from the main characters?

A. Naomi

B. Ruth

C. Boaz

D. God

## **Jesus Our Kinsman-Redeemer**

In many ways, Boaz foreshadows Jesus the Christ. Boaz was an honorable yet humble man who loved and worshiped God, respected others, helped the poor, and in the case of Naomi and Ruth, protected and provided for them as kinsman-redeemer.

12. Read John 6:35, 8:12, 10:14-15 and 27-30, 11:25-26, 14:1-3, and Luke 23:40-43. What assurances are given to those who bow at the feet of Jesus and worship Him as their eternal Kinsman-Redeemer?