

Redemption

Session 13 • Ruth 3:8-13; 4:13-17



ENGAGE

PREPARE: Display **Pack Item 3** (*Poster: Key Characters in Joshua, Judges, Ruth*). Make copies of **Pack Item 14** (*Handout: The Kinsman-Redeemer*).

ASK: What has provided you a sense of hope when everything seemed out of control? (p. 109)

READ: Direct adults to read the opening paragraph on page 109 silently and to mark a phrase or sentence that sticks out to them. After a few minutes, allow volunteers to share what they noted.

CONTEXT: Point out **Pack Item 3** (*Poster: Key Characters in Joshua, Judges, Ruth*) and highlight the information for Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz. Allow adults to share what they recall about these individuals from the previous session. Summarize this content from **Understand the Context** (p. 109):

- “Simply trying to survive, Ruth went to the fields of one of their family’s close relatives. While there, she met Boaz, ‘a prominent man of noble character’ (2:1). Immediately, Boaz was attracted to Ruth’s integrity (2:11-12), and he invited her to glean from the best parts of his field under his protection. Naomi knew this

budding relationship could be a chance for their family redeemer to take notice of their plight.”

TRANSITION: Share that today’s session considers how Boaz’s role as Ruth’s kinsman-redeemer applies to our need for a redeemer today.

EXPLORE THE TEXT

READ: Read **Ruth 3:8-10** aloud as the group listens to what happened in this pivotal moment.

EXPLAIN: Use the information below to explain Ruth’s comments to Boaz. Distribute copies of **Pack Item 14** (*Handout: The Kinsman-Redeemer*). Use the handout to explain the role of the kinsman-redeemer in ancient Israel.

- **(3:9)** Ruth urged Boaz to “take me under your wing” because he was a “family redeemer.” The term relates to the Jewish law of kinsman redemption. In addition to purchasing family land that had been forfeited (Lev. 25:25) and restoring a relative that had been enslaved (Lev. 25:48), redeemers were expected to marry a childless widow and carry on the family name (Deut. 25:5-10). “Take me under your wing” has a broad

interpretation in Hebrew, but it seems clear that Ruth meant it as a euphemism for marriage. The imagery suggests security and peace, especially within the context of marriage. Ruth was urging Boaz to accept his family responsibility, which he was eager to do.

RECAP: Highlight Boaz's response to Ruth's request:

- **(3:10)** Boaz understood the situation and expressed his delight in Ruth's trusting him to be her husband. The term "daughter" may reflect a significant age difference, but Boaz affirmed Ruth's "kindness" because she had not "pursued younger men." Her decision to seek Boaz, her family redeemer, over pursuing younger men showcased her faithfulness to family obligations rather than personal preference. The circumstance is certainly untraditional and unconventional for modern readers, but the unfolding story of God's redemption shows how God's ways are not ours (Isa. 55:8). The way the Lord works might seem mysterious, but when God's people walk in integrity, focused on bringing God glory, His plans unfold beautifully.

MEMORIZE: Enlist a volunteer to read Colossians 1:14. Share that this is the memory verse for this session. Lead the group in reading the verse aloud two or three times to help them start memorizing it. Briefly discuss how Boaz serving as Ruth's kinsman-redeemer illustrates what Jesus has done for His people.

ASK: Ruth's actions were risky and required trust. When have you had to take a step

of faith that felt uncertain? What was the outcome? (p. 111)

READ: Ask for a volunteer to read aloud **Ruth 3:11-13** as the group considers what might have unsettled Ruth and Boaz as they talked about their situation.

DISCUSS: Write the following question on the board: *What scares you?* Encourage a few volunteers to share their responses. Note that sometimes our fears can hold us back from experiencing all God has for us.

ASK: What might keep us from trusting God with our fears? (p. 111)

SHARE: Highlight that Naomi and Ruth were trying to make sure they survived. Share Boaz's concern was that he was not the closest redeemer for Ruth. A closer family redeemer had the right to their land and Ruth.

SAY: *Ruth had proven her integrity long before she arrived in Bethlehem, and the entire city knew about it. Boaz also was a person of integrity, and he was going to make sure Naomi and Ruth were protected. If the other redeemer would give them security, he could live with that. If not, he would marry Ruth and meet the family's needs moving forward. And he refused to drag his feet. When morning arrived, he went to work.*



Family Tree of Boaz and Ruth

Discover more about the remarkable lineage of Boaz and Ruth.

READ: Call on a volunteer to read aloud

Ruth 4:13-17 as the group listens to how God redeemed Ruth and Naomi's future.

ASK: In what ways does God's redemptive work change the way you live daily and give you confidence for the future? (p. 111)

SUMMARIZE: Briefly review Ruth 4:1-12. Highlight that Boaz had spoken with the primary redeemer as promised and that man passed the right of redemption to Boaz.

SHARE: Point out that God completely rewrote Ruth and Naomi's story by providing a family redeemer and a baby boy:

- **(4:14-17)** The people recognized God's favor over Naomi's family, who provided them with a "family redeemer." As Naomi entered Bethlehem months earlier, she arrived a bitter and broken woman (1:20-21). Now, she held a grandson. Resting in her arms was the providential love of God. Earlier, Naomi could only see the unfavorable circumstances of her life. But God's timing was perfect. Even when we cannot understand God's ways, we can rest in His love. God works "all things together for the good of those who love him, who are called according to his purpose" (Rom. 8:28).

ASK: How do you feel knowing that God is at work in every generation? (p. 111)

SAY: *Ruth's story is common to everyone who has ever lived. We all fall short of God's grace. We all need a Savior, a Kinsman-Redeemer. Jesus is the ultimate Kinsman-Redeemer.*

CHALLENGE

DISCUSS: Guide the group to discuss the **Apply the Text** questions on page 111. Encourage adults to find ways to encourage one another to remember God's love and grace during difficult times. Challenge them to read and reflect on the **Apply the Text** question on page 115 during the week ahead.

SHARE: Remind adults that Ruth's story is everyone's story because we all need a Kinsman-Redeemer to rescue us. Briefly review the Plan of Salvation on the inside front cover. Affirm again that you are available to talk to anyone who wants to know more about accepting the redemption Jesus offers as our Kinsman-Redeemer.

PRAY: Urge adults to use the **Explore the Bible Prayer Guide** (QR code on page 63) to guide their prayers during the week. Close the session in prayer, thanking God for providing a Kinsman-Redeemer and for the peace that only He provides. Ask Him to strengthen each person during situations of uncertainty.

AFTER THE SESSION

During the week, send the group a text or an email, encouraging them to reflect on what they learned from the book of Ruth. Suggest they write their thoughts in a journal and review what they have written often. Remind them that they can trust God with their future even when it looks uncertain. Let the group know that the next session begins a study on the book of Romans.

VISUAL IDEAS

These items are available in the *Explore the Bible: Leader Pack* (see goExploreTheBible.com) or you can use these descriptions to create your own.

Pack Item 1

Map: The Conquest of Canaan Sessions 1-7

Locate a map that highlights Israel's conquest of the promised land. Highlight cities and actions related to the Central, Southern, and Northern Campaigns.

Pack Item 2

Poster: Outlines of Joshua, Judges, Ruth Sessions 1-13

Refer to page 9 of the DDG to create a poster that outlines the books of Joshua, Judges, and Ruth.

Pack Item 3

Poster: Key Characters in Joshua, Judges, Ruth Sessions 1-13

Create a chart that highlights important figures in the books of Joshua, Judges, and Ruth. Include names and brief details about their roles in the books. Names could include Joshua, Rahab, Achan, Caleb, Gideon, Samson, Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz.

Pack Item 4

Poster: Key Verse: Joshua 14:8 Session 6

Create a poster with the text of Joshua 14:8.

Pack Item 5

Map: The Judges of Israel Session 5

Locate or create a map that highlights where each of the judges of Israel ministered.

Pack Item 6

Poster: The Oppressors in Judges Sessions 8-11

Create a chart listing the enemies that oppressed God's people in the book of Judges. Include the name of the oppressor, the reference in Judges, and the judge who defeated each enemy.

Pack Item 7

Poster: Key Verse: Ruth 1:16 Session 12

Create a poster with the text of Ruth 1:16.

Pack Item 8

Handout: Joshua, Judges, Ruth Time Line Sessions 1-13

Locate a study Bible with a time line of the major people and events related to the books of Joshua, Judges, and Ruth. Include both biblical and non-biblical historical references for context.

Pack Item 9

Handout: Praying Scripture in Joshua, Judges, Ruth Sessions 1-13

Create a handout to help adults pray through key Scriptures in Joshua, Judges, and Ruth. Focus on the following questions: *What does this passage teach me about God and His character? How should I respond to what He is showing me about Himself?*



Pack Item 10

Handout: The Life of Joshua Sessions 1-7

Using a study Bible, Bible dictionary, or other resource, create a chart that highlights key events in the life of Joshua. Include biblical references from the books of Exodus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, and Joshua.

Pack Item 11

Handout: Memorial Stones Session 3

Using a study Bible, Bible dictionary, or other resource, create an article that describes the significance of the stones taken from the Jordan River after God miraculously led His people into the promised land.

Pack Item 12

Handout: Winning Strategy Session 4

Create an application handout that encourages adults to hear and obey God as Joshua and Israel did when conquering Canaan. Include columns for the following: *What situation are you praying about? What is God saying to you about that situation? What practical steps can you take to obey Him? How are you seeing God move in that situation?*

Pack Item 13

Handout: The Cycle of Judges Sessions 8-11

Using a study Bible, Bible dictionary, or other resource, create an article that describes the recurring “cycle of sin” found in the book of Judges. The cycle should include sin, punishment, supplication, and deliverance.

Pack Item 14

Handout: The Kinsman-Redeemer Session 13

Using a study Bible, Bible dictionary, or other resource, create an article that explains the various roles of the kinsman-redeemer in ancient Israel. Connect the concept to the events of the book of Ruth.

The Oppressors in Judges		
Because of their sin, the Israelites suffered under the rule of several cruel nations during the time of the judges. These nations included the following:		
THE OPPRESSOR	HISTORY IN JUDGES	ISRAEL'S DELIVERER/JUDGE
The Mesopotamians	A Mesopotamian king subdued Israel for a time during the period of the judges (Judg. 3:8).	Othniel
The Moabites	The story of Ehud and Eglon illustrated conflict (Judg. 3:15-26), while the Israelites and Moabites in Ruth lived in peace (Ruth 4:13-22).	Ehud
The Ammonites	The Ammonites laid claim to all the territory in Moab as far south as the Arnon (Judg. 11:13), while the book of Joshua makes the same claim for Israel (3:15-26).	Ehud, Jephthah, Issachar, Dan, Aodan
The Amalekites	The atrocities attributed to Esau's descendants (Gen. 36:22) led God to direct Saul to destroy Amalek (1 Sam. 15:2-3).	Ehud
The Canaanites	The book of Judges (see Josh. 9:12; 10:1-9) indicates that Canaanite kings could form coalitions against Israel, but none had the power to unite all Canaan. In Judges 4-5, Deborah and Barak fought the Canaanites. However, the Canaanites and Israelites gradually melted together, a phenomenon essentially completed by the end of David's rule.	Deborah and Barak
The Midianites	In the time of the judges, the Midianites and Amalekites used camels to carry out fast-paced raids against Israel. Gideon drove them out and killed their leaders (Judg. 6-8).	Gideon, Tola, Jair
The Philistines	The most dramatic phase of Philistine history begins in the period of the judges, when the Philistines were the principal enemy of and the major political threat to Israel. This threat is first seen in the stories of Samson (Judg. 13-16), but it intensified as the Philistines encroached on the territory of Dan, forcing the tribe to move north (see Judg. 18:11,29).	Samson

COMING NEXT QUARTER



Romans

Session 1: **True Power** (Romans 1:13-25)

Session 2: **Coming Judgment** (Romans 2:1-13)

Session 3: **Saving Faith** (Romans 3:21-4:5)

Session 4: **Restored Relationship** (Romans 5:1-11,18-21)

Session 5: **Freedom** (Romans 6:1-14)

Session 6: **Struggle** (Romans 7:4-6,14-25)

Session 7: **Indwelt** (Romans 8:14-27)

Session 8: **Believe** (Romans 9:30-10:3,9-17)

Session 9: **Kindness** (Romans 11:11-24)

Session 10: **Sacrifice** (Romans 12:1-13)

Session 11: **Represent** (Romans 13:1-14)

Session 12: **Unity** (Romans 14:5-20)

Session 13: **Purpose** (Romans 15:14-21,30-33)

Explore

“You will seek me and find me when you search for me
with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:13

THE CONQUEST OF CANAAN



"The Conquest of Canaan" is adapted from "The Conquest of the Promised Land," *The Old Testament Bible Handbook* (Holman Reference, 2023), p. 79. Used with permission.

JOSHUA; JUDGES; RUTH

In this life, leaders come, and leaders go. No matter who we are or what we do, we answer to a leader one way or another. In fact, the question really isn't if we will follow a leader, but what kind of leader we will choose. The biblical history books of Joshua, Judges, and Ruth examine the highs and lows of leadership. While Joshua celebrates the blessings of leadership at its best, Judges offers a cautionary tale of leadership gone wrong. And Ruth reminds us that even in the worst of times, God is still at work, raising leaders from the most unlikely of places. By studying Joshua, Judges, and Ruth, we see leadership from every angle—and we're challenged to reserve our ultimate loyalty for our ultimate Leader.

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