

SESSION 13

Redemption

RUTH 3:8-13; 4:13-17

BOAZ PLAYED THE ROLE OF KINSMAN-REDEEMER BY MARRYING RUTH,
POINTING TO JESUS AS THE ULTIMATE REDEEMER.



Nobody likes feeling helpless and insecure during crises. Many struggle to ask others for help. Some may wonder if God is in control or even cares about their situation. Social media allows people to put on their best face, hide, and pretend they have it all together. Down deep, everyone knows they need something more than what society offers. God has answered the world's cry with an ultimate solution.

*WHAT HAS PROVIDED YOU A SENSE OF HOPE WHEN
EVERYTHING SEEMED OUT OF CONTROL?*

UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT

Ruth's story demonstrates the magnitude of God's providential care for all people. From an uncertain future to a future secured by the redeeming grace of God, Ruth's story reminds the reader that God's promises and love are immeasurable. The story of Ruth demonstrates God's grace and reveals His glory, foreshadowing His redemptive plan through Jesus.

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. Boaz recognized Ruth's character and promised that if the nearest kinsman would not redeem her, he would. Boaz fulfilled his promise when the nearest family redeemer refused, thus offering the opportunity to Boaz. Boaz and Ruth married. From their union, Obed was born. Obed was the father

of Jesse, who was the father of Israel's most renowned king, David.

Naomi and Ruth needed security for their futures and to trust in God for their fears. According to Old Testament law, a family's real estate was inalienable (1 Kings 21:3). Due to Naomi's poverty, the land would be sold. However, the family could redeem it through a kinsman who would purchase the land, and it would not be lost. When this occurred through Boaz's fulfilled promise, all the problems in chapter one were resolved. God specializes in resolving life's most significant problems. God sent humanity's Redeemer, Jesus Christ, years later to another young family in the lineage of King David. When Jesus died for the world's sins, He redeemed all that people had lost from the original fall (Gen. 3). The Lord secured humanity's eternity so that all who believe in Him might be saved under the shelter of His wings. Jesus is our Kinsman-Redeemer.



3:8 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**,” **A** she replied. “Take me **under your wing**, **B** for you are a **family redeemer**.” **C** **10** Then he said, “May the LORD bless you, my daughter. You have shown more **kindness** **D** 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**. **E** **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.” [. . .] **4:13** **Boaz took Ruth** **F** and she became his wife. He slept with her, and the LORD **granted conception** **G** 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**, **H** 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**. **I** He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

A. The Hebrew wording describes a position of service and humility.

B. Boaz had used the “wings” imagery in his earlier blessing of Ruth (2:12). Now, she was seeking his shelter.

C. The kinsman-redeemer was a close relative who could continue a family line through levirate marriage.

D. The Hebrew word *hesed* describes loyalty, faithfulness, and goodness. Often used of God, Ruth was known for displaying *hesed* toward Naomi. Now, Boaz experienced this kindness.

E. One relative was closer to Elimelech than Boaz. Still, whether this man became the redeemer or not, Boaz vowed (“as the LORD lives”) that Ruth and Naomi would be secure (v. 13).

F. The closer relative declined to marry Ruth and allowed Boaz to become her redeemer.

G. Ruth had not been able to conceive with Naomi’s son, Mahlon. But God, in His providence, gave her a son with Boaz.

H. In a culture where male offspring were highly prized, the women emphasized Ruth’s profound impact on Naomi’s life.

I. Obed became the grandfather of King David and an ancestor of the Messiah (Matt. 1:5-6).

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TALK IT OUT

Focus on Colossians 1:14. Have you ever had a moment that changed how you see yourself—like a new role, job, or relationship?

This verse emphasizes two key truths about Christ's work in us. First, we have been redeemed—rescued from sin and its consequences. Second, our sins are not just overlooked, they are completely forgiven through Christ's sacrifice. The verse highlights the completeness of what Jesus accomplished on the cross: our rescue and restoration. Ruth's story is a picture of redemption. She was an outsider with no inheritance or security. Boaz acted as her kinsman-redeemer, paying the price to restore her future and give her a new identity within God's people. Just as Boaz redeemed Ruth from poverty and isolation, Christ redeems us from sin and separation from God, bringing us into His family and granting us forgiveness. Boaz's redemption was costly, just like Christ's. Both acts transform hopelessness into hope and belonging.

How does Boaz's act of redemption help us understand what Jesus has done for us?

Our redemption should shape how we live: with gratitude for God's grace, confidence in our new identity in Christ, and a willingness to reflect Christ's love in our relationships and choices.

Ruth's story shows how redemption changes identity. How does your redemption in Christ shape the way you see yourself—in your family, workplace, and community?

Agree to text Colossians 1:14 to each other over the next few days as a reminder of what Jesus has done for you.

Prayer Requests / Notes

DAILY EXPLORATION



Day 1: Ruth 3:8

Pay attention to the evidence that Ruth and Boaz both acted honorably and with integrity.

Once Naomi learned that Ruth had been gleaned in the fields of Boaz, she decided to take advantage of their present circumstances and see if God's provision of food extended to the provision of a husband for Ruth. She initiated a plan that would give the most advantageous route to Boaz claiming the right of kinsman-redeemer.

The scenario leading to Boaz's discovery of Ruth at his feet has given rise to various interpretations. We must reject any interpretation that suggests Naomi wanted Ruth to act seductively. There are many reasons why this viewpoint must be rejected. First, Naomi was viewed by the people in Bethlehem as an honorable woman. She would not have encouraged Ruth to act shamefully. Second, Ruth's clothing was not indicative of a prostitute's dress. Common outer garments were used as blankets, but Ruth's outer garment was ornamental since Naomi told her to "wear your best clothes" (v. 3). Third, Ruth laid at Boaz's feet but did not act aggressively toward him. Fourth, Boaz's response to Ruth showed his integrity by not taking advantage of her at the moment. Rather, he complimented her kindness demonstrated in her purity and showed appreciation for her nobility.

Ruth and Boaz both demonstrated integrity. What does this teach you about maintaining integrity when faced with surprising or challenging situations?



Day 2: Ruth 3:9-10

Consider how Ruth stepped out in faith.

Ruth humbled herself but boldly requested Boaz to take her under his wing as their "family redeemer." Her expression, "Take me under your wing," was a beautiful way to express a redeemer's action. Psalm 91:4 says, "He will cover you with his feathers; you will take refuge under his wings. His faithfulness will be a protective shield." In a world filled with danger, uncertainty, and insecurity, the Lord offers refuge under His wings to all who trust Him.

Ruth's request for Boaz to pursue the role of family redeemer did not go unheard or ignored. He understood the situation well and expressed his delight in Ruth's trusting him to be her husband. 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. Naomi sent Ruth to the threshing floor in hope that God would provide (vv. 2-4). Ruth went to the threshing floor in faith, not knowing how God would work. Boaz responded in love to the inward beauty of Ruth's character.

In what areas of your life do you need to seek God's covering and provision?



Day 3: Ruth 3:11-13

Focus on how Boaz demonstrated his integrity.

Boaz assured Ruth of his willingness to help her. He commended her for her noble character, which all the people in Bethlehem had witnessed. Ruth's story impacted everyone who heard it. She had followed Naomi to a strange land with an uncertain future out of love for her mother-in-law. Now, Ruth acted with virtue in her approach before Boaz. He could not resist giving her whatever was in her heart.

Boaz knew he was not the closest redeemer for Ruth and explained the circumstances to her. A closer family redeemer had the right to their land and Ruth. How would Ruth respond to this new reality? Boaz's tenderness toward her calmed her heart. He promised Ruth, "But if he doesn't want to redeem you, as the LORD lives, I will."

With her future secured, Ruth could sleep in peace, and peace was what Boaz offered by telling her to "lie down until morning." Nothing gives you peace like knowing you are secure in God's promises. Nothing allows you to truly rest like knowing you are safe in God's gracious care.

How do you find rest when you cannot control the outcome?



Day 4: Ruth 4:13-16

Notice how Naomi's life changed since she arrived in Bethlehem.

Boaz fulfilled his promise to find the closer family redeemer. He went to the city gate where men would conduct business in the presence of witnesses and under the approval of the city elders. When Boaz confronted his family member, he explained the details of the transaction, which included Elimelech's land. When Boaz told him that the deal hinged on taking Ruth as his wife, he refused. The man stated that acceptance would have ruined his inheritance. The reasons could have been the apparent awkwardness of bringing another woman into his home, and he could have had grown sons already enjoying the inheritance of their lands. Boaz called the witnesses to hear his commitment. They agreed and blessed Boaz. Shortly afterward, he fulfilled his promise to be Ruth's kinsman-redeemer. They married, and the Lord granted her a son.

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).

How does this passage remind you that God's plans often exceed your expectations?



Day 5: Ruth 4:17

Compare Ruth 4:17 to Matthew 1:5-6,16.

Neighboring women throughout Bethlehem gathered to celebrate with Ruth, Boaz, and Naomi the fulfillment of their family redeemer. Mahlon's name and his descendants would continue. Jewish history would record and speak the names of Ruth, Boaz, and Naomi. Throughout church history, their story would be read and retold.

Naomi's family redeemer secured her future, and the generations who followed would know God's providential care. Ruth and Boaz's son, Obed, would become the father of Jesse and the grandfather to David. Ultimately, his family line would extend to "Jesus, who is called the Messiah" (Matt. 1:5-6,16).

Throughout Scripture, God uses men and women from every walk of life to fulfill His sovereign plan. Through His redeeming love, He settles our fears and replaces our shame with His grace. The Lord reminds us that He has not abandoned us but has shown compassion as our Redeemer (Isa. 54:4-8).

Ruth's story is every person's story. God's love reaches the religious and the irreligious. His grace covers every sin and secures the eternal future of each one who trusts in Jesus. Jesus is the ultimate Kinsman-Redeemer.

In what ways does God's redemptive work change the way you live daily and give you confidence for the future?

APPLY THE TEXT

We constantly face moments in life where our faith is tested and our fears dominate our emotions. How can knowing God's providential care defeat fear's domination and renew your faith so you experience God's peace and joy through seasons of uncertainty?

JOURNAL

