

Redemption

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

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

3:8 At midnight, Boaz was **startled**, **A** turned over, and there lying at his feet was a woman! **9** So he asked, “Who are you?” “I am Ruth, **your servant**,” **B** she replied. “Take me **under your wing**, **C** for you are a **family redeemer**.” **D** **10** Then he said, “May the LORD bless you, my daughter. You have shown **more kindness** **E** 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** **F** 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**. **G** **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** **H** and she became his wife. He slept with her, and the LORD **granted conception** **I** 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**, **J** 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**. **K** He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

Exploring Key Words

- A** Boaz was shocked to find a woman at his feet when he woke up in the middle of the night at his threshing floor.
- B** The Hebrew wording describes a position of service to another. It implied personal humility.
- C** “Spread the corner of your garment” (NIV); “spread your wings” (ESV). Boaz had used the “wings” imagery in his earlier blessing of Ruth (2:12). Now, she was seeking his shelter.
- D** “Near kinsman” (KJV); “guardian-redeemer” (NIV). The kinsman-redeemer (Heb., *ga’al*) was a close relative who could continue a family line through levirate marriage.
- E** 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.
- F** Boaz was enthusiastic about honoring Ruth’s request and accepting the role of the family’s kinsman-redeemer.
- G** 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).
- H** The closer relative declined to marry Ruth and allowed Boaz to become her redeemer.
- I** Ruth had not been able to conceive with Naomi’s son, Mahlon. But God, in His providence, gave her a son with Boaz.
- J** In a culture where male offspring were highly prized, the women emphasized Ruth’s profound impact on Naomi’s life.
- K** Hebrew name meaning “servant” or “serving.” Obed became the grandfather of King David and an ancestor of the Messiah (Matt. 1:5-6).



NOTES

Future Unclear (Ruth 3:8-10)

- When Naomi found out where Ruth had been working, she told her daughter-in-law that Boaz was a near relative. As such, he could be in line to serve as a kinsman-redeemer according to the Jewish custom of levirate marriage.
- One evening after the harvesting work was done, Ruth followed Naomi's instructions and lay at Boaz's feet while he was asleep on the threshing floor. After Boaz got over the initial surprise of finding a woman at his feet, Ruth inquired about his willingness to fulfill the role of kinsman-redeemer by marrying her.

Future Secured (Ruth 3:11-13)

- Boaz commended Ruth, recognizing her reputation as a woman of noble character.
- However, he explained that another man was a closer relative. According to the law, this man had a prior claim as a kinsman-redeemer.
- Boaz assured Ruth that he would marry her if the other man did not. Either way, he was determined to make sure that Ruth and Naomi would be cared for.

Future Redeemed (Ruth 4:13-17)

- The next morning, Boaz approached the would-be kinsman-redeemer. The man was interested in Elimelech's property, but not in marrying Ruth. So, he deferred to Boaz.
- Once the agreement was made, Boaz took Ruth to be his wife. She later gave birth to a son named Obed. This child was a blessing and comfort to Naomi in her old age.
- Obed later became the father of Jesse, who was the father of King David. Centuries later, Jesus the Messiah was born from this family's lineage.

Summary Statements

Boaz played the role of kinsman-redeemer by marrying Ruth, pointing to Jesus as the ultimate Redeemer.

- When believers face times of uncertainty, we will have to step out in faith.
- We can turn to God with our fears and trust Him to respond.
- We can be assured of God's continual care for us since He demonstrated it in His redemptive plan.

Memory Verse

Colossians 1:14

Key Doctrine

God the Son

In His substitutionary death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin. (See Romans 5:6-10; Ephesians 1:7.)



For additional commentary, see the Leader Guide or Adult Commentary, available for purchase at goExploreTheBible.com.

ENGAGE

What has provided you a sense of hope when everything seemed out of control? (PSG, p. 118)

- Nobody likes feeling helpless and insecure during crises. People often struggle to ask for help. Some isolate and withdraw from others, making things worse.
- Crises challenge our faith and make us wonder if God is in control or cares about our situation. Social media allows people to pretend like they have it all together, but everyone knows they need more than what society offers.
- God answered the world's cry with the ultimate solution.

Bonus: What constitutes a “crisis” in your life? What does it take to turn your focus to God?

EXPLORE

FUTURE UNCLEAR (RUTH 3:8-10)

Bonus: If you're married, how did you meet your spouse? How did you get engaged?

- Having heard where Ruth had been gleaning, Naomi initiated a plan for asking Boaz to accept his responsibility as the family's kinsman-redeemer. This included urging Ruth to get cleaned up and sleep at Boaz's feet on his threshing floor (Ruth 3:1-7).
- Ruth's actions were not immoral or seductive. Boaz's response further validates her noble character. Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz each acted with integrity and honor.
- Once Boaz got over the shock of finding a woman at his feet, Ruth explained why she had come. With humility, she urged Boaz to take her (and Naomi) under his wing as the family's redeemer. The phrase “take me under your wing” was a beautiful way to express a redeemer's actions.
- Boaz responded with enthusiasm to Ruth's request. Most likely, he was several years older than her, so he appreciated that she did not pursue younger men who may have been in the same economic class as Boaz.

How has God's guidance through moments of uncertainty influenced your faith? (PSG, p. 122)

Bonus: Where do you see God working in the events that brought Ruth and Boaz together?

FUTURE SECURED (RUTH 3:11-13)

Bonus: How does insecurity give rise to fear? How do you find peace in chaotic times?

- 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.
- 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.

- Boaz promised to talk to the closer relative the next morning. If the man was willing to marry Ruth, that would secure her future. If not, he would step into the role of family redeemer and marry her. Either way, she and Naomi would be taken care of.

What might keep us from trusting God with our fears? (PSG, p. 122)

FUTURE REDEEMED (RUTH 4:13-17)

Bonus: When has a season of suffering led to joy and peace in your life?

- The closer relative declined to marry Ruth, so Boaz kept his promise and became the family's redeemer. He married Ruth, and they had a son named Obed.
- Children were considered a blessing in Israel, and Naomi was thrilled to have a grandson. But the women of the community also reminded her of the blessing she had found in Ruth. While sons and grandsons were important, Ruth had been “better . . . than seven sons.”
- The crisis had passed, and the future held hope. The biblical writer noted that Obed became the grandfather of King David. Later, Matthew would share that he also was an ancestor of Jesus, the world's ultimate Redeemer.

In what ways does God's redemptive work change the way you live daily and give you confidence for the future? (PSG, p. 125)

CHALLENGE

As a group, make a list of situations that can cause people anxiety and fear?

How can your group encourage them to trust in the Lord? How can you communicate this week God's redemptive love as their source of strength? (PSG, p. 126)

Challenge individuals to identify ways they can surrender their fears and doubts to God.

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? (PSG, p. 126)

FURTHER DISCUSSION



Scan here for additional discussion questions for this week's study.

BIBLE SKILL (PSG, P. 125)

Create a compare/contrast chart to study a passage.

In ancient Israel, the kinsman-redeemer pointed to the coming Messiah. Review these passages from Ruth again and consider how Boaz served as an illustration for what Jesus would do centuries later. Record your comparisons on the chart below:

Boaz as Redeemer

Jesus as Redeemer

Briefly discuss the importance of family redeemers in Israel's history. Affirm that Boaz acted nobly when he took on the role for Ruth and Naomi. Direct adults to take a few minutes to complete the Bible Skill activity on page 125 of the PSG. When they are done with their work, draw the chart on the board or a large sheet of paper and record their findings. Emphasize Jesus as the ultimate Redeemer for humanity.

OBJECT LESSON: SCRAPBOOKS

Bring a scrapbook to the session. Flip through a few pages and share the significance of the photos and clippings. Allow adults to share what they have kept in scrapbooks over the years.

Affirm that digital scrapbooks have started replacing the old-fashioned books, but the idea and the purpose are still the same. Encourage adults to consider what kind of scrapbook Naomi might have kept. Ask: ***How would it have changed from the time she got back to Bethlehem to the time she held Obed on her lap?***

Highlight God's ability to rewrite our stories. Point out that the prophet Isaiah predicted that Obed's ancestor, Jesus the Messiah, would provide beauty from ashes and rebuild rubble (Isa. 61:1-5). As time allows, review the Plan of Salvation on the inside front cover of the PSG. Let the group know that you are willing to speak with anyone who needs to accept Jesus as their Redeemer today.

OUR REDEEMER

The kinsman-redeemer in Israel foreshadowed God's redemptive work through Christ. For the Israelites, the family redeemer maintained the lineage and protected an inheritance. Even more important, God alone had redeemed His people physically and spiritually with His "outstretched arm" (Ex. 6:6). Moses sang about the Lord's mercy and how He delivered His people from Egyptian bondage (Ex. 15:13). Likewise, the psalmist wrote that God's people should remember Him as "their Redeemer" (Ps. 78:35).

Thirteen times in Isaiah 41-63, the prophet glorified God as Israel's Redeemer. God encouraged the Israelites to live without fear because He had redeemed them, and they belonged to Him (Isa. 43:1). He also called attention to His redemptive power when He revealed Himself as "the LORD of Armies" (Isa. 44:6).

In the New Testament, God's redemptive work became more focused when Jesus was born in Bethlehem. The prophecy of Zechariah, John the Baptist's father, had rejoiced at how God "provided redemption for his people" (Luke 1:68).

Of course, that redemption centered on Christ. The Father sent His Son into the world to become the

necessary sacrifice for our salvation. When we place our faith in Him, He saves us and sets us free from the prison that our sins have built.

Later, Paul affirmed that Christ made redemption possible "through his blood" (Eph. 1:7). In Colossians 1:14, he used "redemption" again as he pointed to Jesus. The Greek word for redemption (*apolytrōsis*) describes the payment of a ransom so a prisoner could be released. Paul affirmed that when Jesus paid our ransom on the cross, His sacrifice made it possible for us to be released from the guilt and penalty of our sin.

When Boaz became Ruth's family redeemer, she started a new life brimming with hope. Even more remarkable, when Jesus redeems us, we enjoy new life in which our hope in Him will never end.

BONUS CONTENT



Family Tree of Boaz and Ruth

Discover more about the remarkable lineage of Boaz and Ruth.



These items are available in the *Explore the Bible Leader Pack* (print and digital).

Visit goExploreTheBible.com to purchase the pack.

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 PSG 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.

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.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

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