

At the beginning of book of Ruth, Naomi is deeply saddened by the loss of her husband and two sons who all die while living in Moab. After ten years she decides to return home to Bethlehem. She arrives as the barley harvest is beginning. Her daughter-in-law, Ruth, gleaned leftover grain and, as it turns out, finds herself in the fields of Boaz who is related to Naomi. Boaz shows kindness to her, and in a dramatic encounter with Ruth on the threshing floor, Boaz agrees to do the duty of a family-Redeemer and purchase Naomi's family land so that it is not lost. He also agrees to marry Ruth so that he can provide her children to carry on the name of her dead husband. However, a legal complication could prevent Boaz from following through with his intentions, and in the final chapter of the book we see the conclusion of this redemptive story.

Ruth 4

Boaz

a Kinsman

Redeemer

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

As Christians we are called to be wise and harmless, gentle and shrewd (MT 10:16). These qualities can seem to contradict each other. Keeping them in balance and knowing when to be one rather than the other, can create tension.

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

CAN you describe an experience when you proceeded to pray about a particular endeavor, but failed to plan? **WHAT** was the outcome of that?

DESCRIBE a time when you devised a plan, but neglected to pray about it. **HOW** did that experience unfold?

HOW might you describe a perfect scenario where you planned, prayed, and trusted in the providence of God's hand?

CAN you recall an experience when your plan, and maybe even your prayers, didn't go the way *you* expected and it took a redeemer to rescue you from your situation?

Ruth 4

Boaz

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Redeemer

Read Ruth 4

OBSERVATION

How does *the redeemer* initially respond to Boaz's information that there is a relative to be redeemed?

According to verse 6, what does the redeemer ultimately choose to do and why (see verse 5)?

What details do you observe regarding Boaz's process of "redeeming and exchanging" (verses 7-10)?

What does Boaz say is his purpose in buying Ruth as his wife?

Who does Ruth give birth to and what is the lineage of *his* offspring (verse 17)?

INTERPRETATION

What does redemption mean?

Why does Boaz engage in the specific process he does to see the redeemer take the hand of Naomi (consider Leviticus 25:25; 35: 47-49; Numbers 35:19; Deuteronomy 25:5-10)?

How is Boaz a picture of Christ?

How is Ruth (and God's treatment of her) a picture of us, the church (keep in mind her cultural identity as well)?

What is the significance in the people proclaiming Ruth to be like Rachel and Leah as well as like the house of Perez? What do you know about Rachel and Leah? Why would the people hope that Ruth would be like them? (Consider Genesis 29:31-30:24).

How would having a family like Tamar and Judah be a blessing? In what ways are Tamar's and Ruth's situation similar? (Consider Gen 38:27-30).

What is the significance of the number seven in scripture? Why is Ruth described by the women as worth more than seven sons to Naomi? Compare verses 18-22 to the genealogy included Matthew 1:5-6.

APPLICATION

Throughout the passage we see that Boaz is an honorable man. What areas in your life need to become honorable? How can you live out Godly honor this week in work, with an authority, a spouse, or other context?