

Ruth 4 Discussion Guide

A Redeemer and a King

Today's sermon and discussion guide will tie together to conclude all of the multiple layers of themes that we have seen in the short book of Ruth. Take time in your group to review some of the things that we have learned so far.

- 1) Life can present tragedies that seem almost too great to bear (Naomi loses her husband and sons to death within a few short years).
- 2) Love for God can shine through in the midst of the bitterness of tragedy (Naomi's testimony made a relationship with God seem worthwhile to Ruth.)
- 3) Love is an action (Observed in the things that Ruth and Boaz do for others.)
- 4) The righteous have insight when they see God at work in the lives of others (demonstrated by Boaz and Naomi's recognition of God providing in the situations).

Today we will focus on the many ways that God provides for his people. He has already provided food and protection for Naomi and Ruth as they return destitute from the land of Moab. Today we will see that God not only provides for their practical needs, but he also provides for them a future and salvation.

Ruth 4

Now Boaz had gone up to the gate and sat down there. And behold, the redeemer, of whom Boaz had spoken, came by. So Boaz said, "Turn aside, friend; sit down here." And he turned aside and sat down. ² And he took ten men of the elders of the city and said, "Sit down here." So they sat down. ³ Then he said to the redeemer, "Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, is selling the parcel of land that belonged to our relative Elimelech. ⁴ So I thought I would tell you of it and say, 'Buy it in the presence of those sitting here and in the presence of the elders of my people.' If you will redeem it, redeem it. But if you will not, tell me, that I may know, for there is no one besides you to redeem it, and I come after you." And he said, "I will redeem it." ⁵ Then Boaz said, "The day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the widow of the dead, in order to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance." ⁶ Then the redeemer said, "I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I impair my own inheritance. Take my right of redemption yourself, for I cannot redeem it."

⁷ Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging: to confirm a transaction, the one drew off his sandal and gave it to the other, and this was the manner of attesting in Israel. ⁸ So when the redeemer said to Boaz, "Buy it for yourself," he drew off his sandal. ⁹ Then Boaz said to the elders and all the people, "You are witnesses this day that I have bought from the hand of Naomi all that belonged to Elimelech and all that belonged to Chilion and to Mahlon. ¹⁰ Also Ruth the Moabite, the widow of Mahlon, I have bought to be my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brothers and from the gate of his native place. You are witnesses this day."¹¹ Then all the people who were at the gate and the elders said,

“We are witnesses. May the Lord make the woman, who is coming into your house, like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the house of Israel. May you act worthily in Ephrathah and be renowned in Bethlehem,¹² and may your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring that the Lord will give you by this young woman.”

¹³ So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. And he went in to her, and the Lord gave her conception, and she bore a son. ¹⁴ Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without a redeemer, and may his name be renowned in Israel! ¹⁵ He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age, for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has given birth to him.” ¹⁶ Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her lap and became his nurse. ¹⁷ And the women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, “A son has been born to Naomi.” They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

¹⁸ Now these are the generations of Perez: Perez fathered Hezron,¹⁹ Hezron fathered Ram, Ram fathered Amminadab, ²⁰ Amminadab fathered Nahshon, Nahshon fathered Salmon, ²¹ Salmon fathered Boaz, Boaz fathered Obed, ²² Obed fathered Jesse, and Jesse fathered David.

The story of Ruth ends with a genealogy. This genealogy traces the lineage from Perez to David through Boaz and Ruth. Perez was the son of Judah who was born to his daughter-in-law Tamar. Tamar has some similarities to Ruth in that she was foreigner married into lineage of Judah whose husband died, leaving her without a descendant. Tamar and Judah’s story is much more scandalous than Ruth and Boaz’, but the point of both stories is the same. God is fulfilling his promise to provide heirs to the house of Judah to inherit his land.

But there is an even greater promise being fulfilled for the line of Judah that is coming into focus. If you go back to the discussion guide from Ruth 1, we read a passage from Genesis 49.

**⁸ “Judah, your brothers shall praise you;
your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies;
your father's sons shall bow down before you.**

**⁹ Judah is a lion's cub;
from the prey, my son, you have gone up.
He stooped down; he crouched as a lion
and as a lioness; who dares rouse him?**

**¹⁰ The scepter shall not depart from Judah,
nor the ruler's staff from between his feet,
until tribute comes to him;
and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.**

**¹¹ Binding his foal to the vine
and his donkey's colt to the choice vine,
he has washed his garments in wine
and his vesture in the blood of grapes.**

**¹² His eyes are darker than wine,
and his teeth whiter than milk.**

This blessing from Jacob to Judah foretells the king, David. David's reign was the reason that the Book of Ruth was recorded for the Hebrew people. But we know that the promises of David's reign were not completely fulfilled by David. Those promises were given by God to leave Israel...and the world....looking for a greater and permanent king from the line of David. Listen to the prophecy that the angel Gabriel gave to Mary in Luke 1:31-33

³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

So we can draw a line from the Old Testament to the New Testament and see that that the story of God providing salvation and a future for Ruth points to God providing salvation and a future for us. **WE BECOME PART OF THIS STORY THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST.**

Discussion Questions

- **What is a kinsman-redeemer?**
- **What is the promise that Boaz is making to Ruth?**
- **Why does Naomi have so much joy?**
- **How does God demonstrate his faithfulness in Ruth 4?**
- **What is the promise that God made to Judah?**
- **What is the significance of David?**
- **How does redeem not only individuals, but entire families?**
- **What blessings has your family experienced from God's faithfulness?**
- **What has been the most impactful lesson from Ruth for you?**
- **How does Jesus serve as our kinsman-redeemer?**
- **What should it mean for us to serve Jesus as our King?**