

2015 Fellowships Joint Bible Study (10/2015)

Student's Version

Guidelines

- 1. Spread out the work over several days.** Allow time for the things God is teaching you to sink in.
- 2. Pray each time before you start.** Pray for a humble heart and ask God to help you to understand and apply what you have learned.
- 3. Unless specified, answer the questions without consulting the Commentary or Internet.** The goal is to develop a habit to think and meditate God's Word on your own with the help of Holy Spirit.

Ruth 4:1-12

Background

Boaz's first action in this scene is to "go up to the gate" which is an idiom for "to go to court". City gates in Palestine in the early iron age were complex structures with lookout towers at the outside and a series of rooms on either side of the gateway where defenders of the town would be stationed. But these gateways also served a secondary purpose, as a gathering place for the citizens of the town. This is where the official administrative and judicial business of the community was conducted. - Block

Read Ruth 4:1-4

The book of Ruth is full of "coincidences" - things that seem to happen by chance. Let us review what we have so far.

Ruth 1:22 - arriving in Bethlehem as...

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Ruth 2:3 - As it turned out, she was working in a field belonging...

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Ruth 2:4 - Just then...

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Ruth 4:1 - Meanwhile Boaz went up to the town gate and sat down there just as...

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Why did Boaz ask the ten elders of the town to come?

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What did Boaz ask the guardian-redeemer to redeem? Why did Boaz ask that man (read 3:12)?

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Note: According to Mosaic law this land was never to leave the family, and the institution of the guardian-redeemer was one of the nation's customs designed to prevent this from happening (Lev 25:25). - Block

What was the man's answer?

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Meditation/Reflection

Looking back at your life, are there any events that seemed to happen by chance but now you believe God is behind it?

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Why do you think God is behind it?

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Read Ruth 4:5-12

What was Boaz's reason that the guardian-redeemer should also acquire Ruth?

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Why did the guardian-redeemer change his mind?

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What did the guardian-redeemer do next and what does that signify?

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What did he gain and lose?

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Boaz announced that he would redeem the land and marry Ruth. What sacrifice did Boaz have to make for his decision?

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Why do you think Boaz was willing to do that?

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Who were Rachel and Leah (Gen 29-30)?

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What blessings did the witnesses give to Boaz's marriage with Ruth? (verse 11-12)?

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Note: The people hoped Boaz's house to be like the house of Perez, the clan from which Boaz and most of his audience descended. For unknown reason, that clan had bypassed older clans to achieve preeminence in the tribe of Judah. - Hubbard

What does "redeem" mean? Use a dictionary and any passage of Scripture for your answer.

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What do the following Scriptures say about those who are redeemed by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ?

Galatians 4:4-5 -

1 Peter 1:18-19 -

Eph 1:7 -

Romans 3:24-25a -

Meditation/Reflection

What criteria did the guardian-redeemer use when he made the decision to first accept and then reject the redeeming the land?

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What are some of the worldly concerns that hinder people in making commitment that leads to greater spiritual rewards?

References:

Engaging God's Word: Ruth and Esther. Colorado Springs: Community bible Study, 2012.

Block, Daniel Isaac *The New American Commentary Volume 6 Judges and Ruth.* B&H Publishing Group, 1999.

Cook, David *The Wiersbe Bible Study Series: Ruth and Esther.* Colorado Springs: David C. Cook, 2008.

Higgs, Liz Curtis *The Girl's Still Got it.* New York: WaterBrook Multnomah, 2012

Hubbard, Robert L. *The NICOT - The Book of Ruth.* Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1988.

James, Carolyn Custis *The Gospel of Ruth: Loving God Enough to Break the Rules.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008

Rivers, Francine *Unshaken.* Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, 2001

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Group Sharing Questions

(Bible study leaders: Please make sure everyone is in the Sanctuary for the Wrap Up by 8:30PM. Thanks!!)

Although Boaz wanted to redeem Ruth, He did not do so without consulting the closer relative first. He chose to follow God's Law. In the past, have you had similar experience that you wanted something but you decided to wait upon the Lord? What were some of your struggles? What was the outcome? Are you glad that you made such choice now? What have you learned?

What are some of your considerations when making an important decision? Please list them in terms of importance. If you are single, think about dating/marriage. If you are married, think about job changing or relocation.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

PRINCIPLE:

God's redemption through Jesus Christ brings new life and hope to believers.
God redeems us by giving Jesus Christ to set us free from our sins.