

# Ruth

The Importance of Family

## Review the Cycle of Sin—Context of Ruth



○ Read Ruth 1:1-3

○ In which part of the cycle do you think these events are occurring?

Review the cycle we studied last week

Israel went through seven cycles of rebelling against God, being overrun by enemy nations, being delivered by a God-fearing judge, remaining loyal to God under that judge, and then, again forgetting God when the judge died.

The story of Ruth takes place during the time of the Judges so it is relevant to remember this cycle.

Ruth 1:1-3 indicates that these events begin during the time of a famine so it is probably occurring during a stage of punishment and lack of faith, but as we will see there are some who stay faithful to God.

## Ruth and Naomi

In small groups Read Ruth 1:4-19

- What has happened to Naomi's family?
- Ruth stays with Naomi.
  - What does this cost her? (what is she giving up?)
  - Why do you think she stays with Naomi?

Naomi's husband and sons have all died. Think about what this means in a society where women have very little way to care for themselves without husbands or male children. For Ruth and Orpah, this also means they have no means of support. Naomi encourages them to return to their families so that they may have the chance to marry again and have a hope for a future.

Ruth refuses to leave Naomi. This shows incredible love for her mother-in-law. Think about the cost of leaving your home, every friend and family member you have ever known. She is going with Naomi to a place Ruth has never been. Her chances of finding a husband would be significantly less. Looking at vs. 16 we may get an idea of why she leaves. Naomi must have lived her faith in a way that encouraged Ruth to make Naomi's God her own God.

## Ruth and Boaz

- Read Ruth 2:1-9 and 14-20
- Ruth takes care of Naomi and Boaz takes care of Ruth
- How?

Ruth goes to the fields during the harvest to gather grain that is dropped by the harvesters. This was a common practice and a way that the rich land owning farmers cared for the poor. It usually did not amount to very much but was enough for them to make a little bread.

When Boaz saw and heard the story of Ruth and how she had cared for Naomi and saw how hard she worked in the fields he ordered his men to keep an eye on her for her protection as well as to drop extra grain for her to gather. He also allowed her to eat from the table of the workers which she also took home to Naomi.

## Boaz-Kinsmen Redeemer

Ov. 20 Naomi refers to Boaz as a family or kinsmen Redeemer

○ Ruth 3 Summary

Explanation of a Kinsmen Redemmer: Male relative who, according to various laws found in the Pentateuch, had the privilege or responsibility to act for a relative who was in trouble, danger, or need of vindication.

Although the term "kinsman-redeemer" is used only seven times in the NIV (all in the Book of Ruth) and "avenger of blood" is used twelve times, the Hebrew verb ga'al, from which both of these terms are translated, is used over 100 times and rendered by such additional terms as "redeemer" or "near relative." The Hebrew term designates a male relative who delivers or rescues; redeems property or person; avenges the murder of a relative as a guiltless executioner; and receives restitution for wrong done to a relative who has since died. The unique emphasis of the redemption/salvation/vindication associated with the kinsman-redeemer is the fact that this action is carried out by a kinsman on behalf of a near relative in need.

Ruth 3 explains how Naomi instructs Ruth to submit herself to Boaz as their Kinsmen Redeemer. She is to go to the threshing floor where they are preparing the grain and when Boaz has gone to be Naomi tells her to lie down near Boaz. When Boaz wakes up he and asks her what she is doing and Ruth asks him for his protection and for him to redeem their family. He tells her that there is actually another who should have the first opportunity to marry her and Redeem her family. He must make sure to ask the other relative 1<sup>st</sup> but promises to take care of her if the closer relative will not. He fills her shawl with grain and sends her back to Naomi

## Boaz and Ruth Marry

- In your small groups read Ruth 4:1-10 and 13-17
- When Boaz asks the closer relative to buy Elimelech's (Naomi's deceased husband) land what is his first response?
- Why does he change his mind?
- What does Boaz do?
- What is the importance of v. 17?
- How does this connect with our own story of Redemption?

The relatives first response is YES he want to buy the land but when he hears he has to also marry Ruth and give the land to her 1st child (so as to carry on Ruth's 1<sup>st</sup> husband's name) he changes his mind because it would take away from the inheritance of his own children.

Boaz marries Ruth and takes care of her family.

v. 17 shows that Ruth and Boaz are are part of the family of King David and also therefore in the line of Jesus. Who will be our Redeemer.



The main thing we want you to communicate to the kids from these questions from the Catechism is that we were hopelessly lost in sin and it is only through the Grace and gift of love of the Father through His Son Jesus that we are Redeemed. Very Law and Gospel! This is the connection to the story of Ruth. Jesus acts as our Boaz in his Redemption. This seems like a very basic idea of our faith but many of our students still think there is a component of something they have to DO!! They have to be a good person etc. or they think someone they know and love is a good person so therefore, even if they don't believe in need for Jesus, that it is ok because they are GOOD. We need to always make sure our students know that is if purely God's grace through faith that brings us our Redemption.

1. What are we saying when we confess that Jesus has redeemed us?

Read Colossians 1:13-14 and Hebrews 2:14-15.

We are acknowledging that Jesus has rescued and reclaimed us from powers that we can not overcome on our own: Sin, death, and the devil. It is only Jesus death that can rescue us.

2. Why did we need to be redeemed? Read John 8:34-36 and Ephesians 2:3

The entire human race lived under the tyranny of sin, death, and the devil and the entire human race stood under God's judgement.

3. Why did God send His Son? Read 1 John 4:10

God sent His Son out of love for us