

RUTH CHAPTER 4

Discussion Questions

In the book of Ruth, we find it begins with funerals and ends with a wedding — what a picture of the grace of God. Faith brought Ruth into God's family, and this is the only way to God. He works in all kinds of situations to bring about His sovereign will. He calls Ruth, a Gentile, to marry an Israelite and Esther, an Israelite, to marry a Gentile. His ways are not our ways. We find overflowing joy in this last chapter. God still writes the last chapter for us—we don't need to be afraid of the future.

1. Read chapter 4. Using just a few words, describe the main events.

The gate was a place where the honorable men of the city sat. It was a combination of a city council, a courtroom, a place to conduct business, and a public meeting place.

2. In referring to verse 2, who normally sat at the city gate?
3. What did Boaz seek to accomplish that day?
4. What was the purpose Boaz had in asking the closer relative his question at the city gate? Why not go to his house?

5. List the responsibilities of a kinsman redeemer.

Why did Naomi and Ruth need one?

Redemption is when someone pays a ransom to free another from bondage. The Bible uses the word redemption to make two things clear about salvation:

1) The Savior paid a price. 2) The saved have been set free from bondage.

6. Write down what the following verses say about our Redeemer, who set us free by paying a great price.

Job 19:25

Isaiah 52:3

Isaiah 63:16

1 Peter 1:18-19

7. What answer did the closer relative give Boaz regarding redeeming the land? Did he keep his answer? What was the reason?

8. Explain the custom in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging in verse 7-8. The sandal symbolized the right of the owner to set foot on the land. The removal of the sandal symbolized the act of surrendering the rights of possession to another.

9. Read Lamentations 3:22-26. How is the Lord speaking to you through these verses?

The Law can't redeem those whom it condemns; it would be against its own purpose. Look up Galatians 3:14. As a result of Boaz' action, Ruth the Moabitess was officially accepted in Israel by the elders of the city (verses 11-12)! Just as our God loves us as foreigners (Gentiles) and sinners, He paid the price, like Boaz did, for us to be accepted, and now we have our citizenship in heaven. See Philipians 3:20.

10. What promises are given to us in the above verses?

11. Look up these verses on God's faithfulness and jot down what you learn.

Psalm 119:90

1 Corinthians 1:9

Psalm 31:23

Notice that Boaz did all that he promised from chapter 3. Our Lord does ALL that He promises to do for us!

12. In what way might Psalm 40:8-11 be a prayer of

Boaz:

Ruth:

(relating it to the events in this chapter)

Boaz joyfully and legally sealed the deal—he would redeem both the property and the posterity (continuing the family name) of Elimelech. Best of all, Boaz was now able to marry the one he loved, Ruth, who also loved him. Possibly Ruth thought she might be giving up her chance of marriage leaving Moab and giving her heart and life to the God of Israel. As Ruth put God first, He brought her together in a relationship greater than she could have ever imagined!

13. What joy there was in Bethlehem. Write what you learn about joy in the following verses.

John 15:11

Psalm 16:11

John 17:13

14. Find a verse that you would like to declare to the Lord and write it here.

It's amazing to see how God loves to bless us abundantly, just as we see Him pouring out His blessings on Naomi and Ruth in this short book. The Lord covers us with His grace as we fall short keeping the law. Take a moment to thank Him for His abundant grace and mercy in your life.

15. God blessed Boaz and Ruth with a child and they called him Obed. What is the meaning of his name?

16. Ruth was devoted to God and to Naomi. Read and write out Psalm 119:38.

17. Again, we see how God has changed Naomi. What was Naomi's response to a son born to Boaz and Ruth?

How did the other women respond?

We see God bring this story full circle. God brought Naomi back to Bethlehem, and from there Ruth marries Boaz, then comes David, and lastly we find Mary and Joseph back in Bethlehem and there our Savior is born—King Jesus! God's plan all along! God has a perfect plan for each one of us, just as He did in Ruth and Naomi's life.

Trust Jesus, our Kinsman Redeemer. Read Isaiah 54:4-8 and ponder this.

18. God works out His purpose generation after generation. The Bible records the genealogy for us. What is the importance of this?

**Bonus question: Who was Boaz' mother and what do we know about her?

Through this simple yet powerful love story, we see God's plan interwoven throughout people and lands for the redemption of the world and the restoration of His people. Ruth simply obeyed; she sought the Lord by actively walking out His will with courage. Times of adversity are times of opportunity. Ask God what field He wants you to work in and then faithfully serve Him. You will experience His grace, love, and joy.