

# Session 7

## Bible Study Notes: Ruth Chapter 4 - The Kinsman Redeemer

### Opening Prayer

Begin your time together by thanking God for His redemptive love and asking the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and reveal truth to each person.

### Ice Breaker

Share a time when something you thought was a disappointment or delay turned out to be God's perfect timing.

### Sermon Summary

This week we studied Ruth chapter 4, where Boaz acts as kinsman redeemer for Ruth. We saw the contrast between the unnamed kinsman redeemer (representing religion and self-interest) and Boaz (representing Jesus and covenant love). The story culminates in their marriage and reveals how Ruth becomes part of the Messianic line—a beautiful picture of redemption and God's faithfulness.

### Key Takeaways

1. **Religion vs. Relationship:** Religion only wants what benefits itself; Jesus gives everything without condition
2. **God's Redemptive Plan:** Even through messy situations and long waits, God's plans cannot be thwarted
3. **Unconditional Love:** Jesus doesn't redeem us for what we can do for Him, but because He loves us

4. **No Good Thing Withheld:** When God seems to delay, He's not punishing—He's preparing something better
5. **Grafted In:** The Messianic line includes Gentiles and "unlikely" people, showing God's inclusive love

## Discussion Questions

### Understanding the Text

1. **What does the contrast between the unnamed kinsman redeemer and Boaz teach us about the difference between religion and relationship with God?**
  - How have you experienced this difference in your own life?
2. **Why is it significant that Boaz was willing to marry Ruth even though she hadn't had children in her previous 10+ year marriage?**
  - What does this reveal about covenant love versus conditional love?
3. **The elders prophesied, "May you be famous in Bethlehem" over Boaz. How was this prophecy ultimately fulfilled?**
  - What does this teach us about God's long-term plans?

### Personal Reflection

4. **Ruth experienced years of waiting and disappointment before her breakthrough. Have you ever experienced a season where God seemed to be withholding something good?**
  - Looking back, can you see how God was working even in the waiting?
5. **The sermon mentioned that "God doesn't withhold anything good from those who love Him." How does this truth challenge or encourage you in your current circumstances?**

6. **Boaz's mother was Rahab, a former prostitute. Ruth was a Moabite outsider. Both became part of Jesus' family line. What does this tell you about your own past and God's ability to redeem it?**

## **Application**

7. **The sermon stated: "Don't worry about your past...God totally knows how to pull this thing off." What parts of your past do you struggle to believe God can fully redeem?**
  - How can this group pray for you in this area?
8. **Religion wants everything "clean" and avoids the messy parts of real life and real people. How can we as a group/ church embrace the messiness of authentic relationship while still pursuing holiness?**
9. **Ruth surrendered everything—her homeland, her gods, her future—to follow Naomi's God. What is God asking you to surrender right now?**
  - What fears or hesitations do you have about that surrender?

## **Practical Applications**

### **This Week's Challenge**

Choose one of the following to practice this week:

1. **Identify Religion vs. Relationship:** Journal about areas where you might be operating in "religion" (following rules to earn God's favor) rather than "relationship" (resting in His unconditional love). Ask God to show you the difference.
2. **Practice Surrender:** Like Ruth at Boaz's feet, spend intentional time in a posture of surrender before God. Tell Him, "I trust You with my life completely."

3. **Prophecy Blessing:** Like the elders who prophesied over Boaz and Ruth, intentionally speak blessing and God's promises over someone who is in a difficult season or waiting period.
4. **Study Your Spiritual Lineage:** Research the story of Rahab (Joshua 2, 6:22-25) and reflect on how God uses "unlikely" people in His redemptive plan. Thank God for including you in His family.

## Memory Verse

**Psalm 84:11 (NIV)** *"For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless."*

## Prayer Focus

### Pray for each other in these areas:

- For trust in God's timing when He seems to delay
- For freedom from shame about our past
- For the ability to see others (and ourselves) through God's redemptive lens
- For deeper relationship with God rather than religious performance
- For breakthrough in areas where we've been waiting

## Looking Ahead

Next week we'll finish Ruth chapter 4 and see the complete fulfillment of God's redemptive plan in Ruth's life. Come prepared to celebrate God's faithfulness!

## Closing Prayer

Close by thanking God that He delights in us not because of what we do for Him, but simply because He is love. Thank Him that He displays us as His jewels and that nothing in our past disqualifies us from His purposes.

## **Leader Notes**

- Be sensitive to those who may be in seasons of waiting or disappointment
- Create space for honest sharing about struggles with religion vs. relationship
- Emphasize God's unconditional love—avoid letting the discussion become about "doing better"
- Celebrate testimonies of God's redemption in people's lives
- If someone shares about messy situations or past shame, respond with grace and point them to Jesus' complete redemption
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