

Our **Virtual**

PowerGroup

RUTH
Week 4 Study

Icebreaker

Do you like to make detailed plans? Why or why not?

Passage 1 Ruth 3:1-6

It seems that Naomi liked to make plans. She had a sense of responsibility to care for Ruth as her mother-in-law. Naomi showed great love for her daughters-in-law in Ruth 1. That same caring love drove the urgency of her statement in Ruth 3:1: "I must find a home for you, where you will be well provided for." Naomi addressed Ruth as "My daughter," which seems to indicate the affection and closeness that had developed between them.

Reflection List out Naomi's instructions to Ruth in order. After completing this list, what was Ruth to wait for (v. 4)?

What are your thoughts about Naomi's plan? Was Naomi compromising Ruth? Why or why not?

Passage 2 Ruth 3:5-9

If proclaiming love for another person can be risky, Ruth's current situation is in a league all its own. She loved and lost before, was a lowly foreigner seeking a wealthy Israelite, was a woman proposing to a man (which was counter cultural at best), and she was in a place she hadn't been invited. In poker terms I think this would be considered "all in."

Reflection What was Ruth's request to Boaz? What did she mean by saying, "Spread the corner of your garment over me"? (Read Ezekiel 16:8)

What do you think was going through Ruth's mind while she waited in the darkness? While she lay at Boaz's feet?

Passage 3 Ruth 3:10-14

Pastor Erik preached on the word Chesed. This is a Hebrew word used several times in the book of Ruth and in many other books of the Old Testament. It is translated as "kindness" in Ruth 1:8; 2:20; and 3:10 (NIV); and it is translated in other contexts as "love," "unfailing love," "mercy," "loving-kindness," "devotion," "loyal," and more. There isn't an English word that matches its full meaning. This richly meaningful term, chesed, expresses God's deep, faithful, abiding love, mercy, and kindness to his people. Read the following verses below and see what each verse says to you.

Reflection Exodus 34:6

Psalm 107:1, 8, 15, 21, 31, 43

Psalm 130:7

Psalm 136:1-26

What is familiar about the way Boaz replied to Ruth, and how did he affirm her?

Application

Although we are not always faithful to God, God is always faithful and loyal to us. The Hebrew word chesed describes God's covenant, steadfast love and includes the idea of faithfulness as well as benevolence. The most important move in our life is total surrender to God. In Ruth's story, the earthly and eternal blessings of submission are unparalleled. What God can do with a willing life surrendered at His feet is more than we can comprehend.

1. Whose wings is God calling you to rest under? Read Matthew 11:28-30

2. What is it that keeps you from resting under your Redeemer's wings?