

Our **Virtual**

PowerGroup

RUTH
Week 5 Study

Icebreaker

What is your favorite happy ending to a story, book, or movie?

Passage 1 Ruth 4:1-2

In ancient times, the main gate to a city or town served as the most logical place to find people coming and going. So the gate area also served as the seat of local government, the site of important business transactions, the place to speak and be heard by crowds, and the nucleus of local gossip. Small rooms or alcoves with places to sit were commonly included in the structure of a town gate. As people passed by, they socialized, carried on public business, and performed legal transactions in the presence of witnesses. Elders and other officials were available to settle disputes and witness transactions (for example, see Deut. 25:7; Josh. 20:4)

- Reflection**
1. What is important about having this meeting in a public place and in front of other witnesses?
 2. What do these verses communicate on how Christians are suppose to conduct themselves at the workplace and outside of church?

Passage 2 Ruth 4:3-4

In this ancient culture, a household's land was not only the means of income and survival for the family, but it was also the centerpiece of the inheritance passed along to the descendants. While a widow was given no right of inheritance to land, she could hold it in trust for a future heir to secure. In essence, Naomi and Ruth needed a Guardian-Redeemer in order to survive.

- Reflection**
1. How does our situation in Romans 5:6 compare to Naomi's?
 2. How do the following verses describe Jesus as our redeemer?
Mark 10:45, Hebrews 2:14-15, Hebrews 7:24-25
 3. What does Christ's willingness to save you mean to you personally?

Passage 3 Ruth 4:5-8

The exchange of a sandal may seem a strange custom. We learn in Ruth 4:7 that it served to make “the redemption and transfer of property final”—apparently like a legal signature on a deed. Scholars offer a number of different interpretations of the symbolism involved.

- Reflection**
1. Why do you think the caveat of acquiring Ruth was a deal breaker for the nearer kinsman? Why was it a risk to purchase the land?
 2. Compare and contrast the two kinsman redeemers. What was the first redeemer after? What was Boaz after? What does this communicate to us about our redeemer Jesus?

Passage 2 Ruth 4:9-12

Boaz wants there to be no doubt about what has transpired, so he names the people (including the deceased) connected with this transaction, and he states the purpose for his actions. First, Boaz presents the facts in terms of actions: (1) I have purchased from Naomi all the property of Elimelek, Mahlon, and Kilion, and (2) I will marry Mahlon’s widow, Ruth, the Moabite.

- Reflection**
1. What reasons does he give for purchasing the property and marrying Ruth?
 2. What blessings do the elders then offer Boaz and Ruth? Notice who is mentioned. Why would the blessings include these particular people?

Application

The story of redemption in the book of Ruth is like a snapshot of the larger gospel (“good news”) story of redemption presented throughout the entire Bible. Genealogies are one method biblical writers used in order to show the continuing redemption story.

1. How do we see God's hand of redemption work throughout this book?
2. Whose examples of love do you think the author encourages us to imitate?