

Small Group Material - Ruth 4

Boaz marries Ruth

Welcome (10 mins)

Did your parents ever encourage you to date or even marry someone?

Word (40 mins inc the reflection)

Leader's notes: after providentially gleaning in Boaz's grain fields, Ruth had approached him regarding the law of the 'Kinsman-Redeemer'. Boaz, a relative of Ruth's late husband, now calls for an official meeting in an effort to redeem the deceased man's land and in his place to provide his family an heir.

Read Ruth 4.1-12

v1. The passage begins with 'meanwhile', referring to Ruth and Naomi's early morning discussion (see end of ch 3). What does the fact that Boaz had already started to take action show about his character?

v1-2. How does Boaz carefully set the scene for his encounter with the rival kinsman-redeemer? *(Note: his respect and tact in approaching the man, v1-4, the fact he doesn't immediately reveal the details of the proposed transaction but does so gradually, v5.)*

At first the next-in-line kinsman-redeemer is willing to fulfil his responsibilities. Why does he change his mind? v6

v9-10 Boaz acknowledges, even announces, that any child that he has with Ruth will carry on Mahlon's name rather than his own. This is in accordance with the Law of Levirate marriage, cf Deut 25.5-6. The prospect of jeopardizing his inheritance is what made the other kinsman-redeemer refuse to marry Ruth. Why do you think Boaz is willing to jeopardize his own inheritance in this way? What risks was Boaz taking marrying Ruth? *(eg over-extending himself financially, endangering his own estate, adjusting to marriage with someone from a different culture).*

For discussion: Boaz accepted the role as kinsman-redeemer joyfully. How has Jesus Christ acted as kinsman-redeemer to you?

Read v13-22.

Why do you think the story of Ruth concludes with a genealogy of David? Compare the genealogy in Matthew 2.1-6 with Ruth 4.18-22. How do they match up? *(Note: in Matthew's genealogy, only 4 women other than Mary are mentioned. All of them seem to be unlikely candidates to enter the family line of the Messiah - Tamar, Rahab, Ruth and Bathsheba.)* What does this teach us?

For discussion: How would you describe the change in Ruth and Naomi's life from the beginning of the story?

Reflection: Allow some time (10 mins) for reflection together as you looking back over the whole story. Here are some questions you could ask: What has struck you as you look back over this story? What have you learnt about God? What has encouraged you? Challenged you? Is there anything you feel God asking you to do?

Worship (15 mins)

In what ways has the Lord intervened in your life to change it for the better? Take a moment to thank God for the ways in which he has worked out his purposes and continues to work them out in the world and in your own life.

Sing 'Broken Vessels (Amazing Grace)' as an act of praise and worship for all that God has done in your life:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dxKLnySMbYM> or

God is working his purpose out:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=liuxet4pJ-c&list=RDliuxet4pJ-c&start_radio=1

Witness

Pray for the blessing from God of Pandemonium in the Park to continue to speak to people of God's generosity.

Pray for Feast and Fun - times of food and activities for some of the neediest families in our community. 24 & 26th July, 28 & 30th August.

Pray for each other in any uncertainties you are experiencing.

