



# ruth

## DEVOTIONAL

VULNERABLE & RESTORED // NOVEMBER 28, 2021

GRACE  
FELLOWSHIP

**Discussion Starter:** What are some truths you've learned from Ruth and Boaz thus far about having a relationship with Christ?

**Key Passage:** Read the fourth chapter of the Book of Ruth (4:1-22)

In Chapter 4, we see a focus on the marriage of Boaz and Ruth and their baby Obed.

### 1. Boaz makes arrangements for Ruth's redemption and marries her (4:1-13a).

There was another man in Bethlehem who was a nearer relative to Ruth than Boaz was. Ruth and Naomi were too poor to redeem themselves, but Boaz was wealthy—he could pay the price in order to become the kinsman-redeemer Ruth and Naomi needed. So Boaz approached the other man to reason with him. As it turns out, the other man was not interested in paying the price to redeem Ruth and Naomi—he was concerned it would deplete his own family's financial situation and inheritance—so he gave Boaz permission to redeem Ruth and Naomi.

**Discuss:** Go back and skim Chapter 4, highlighting how many times you see the words “redeem” and “buy.” This reminds us that there can be no redemption without a price being paid. 1 Peter 1:18-19 says, “*Knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold,<sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.*” What was the price Jesus, our Kinsman-Redeemer, paid in order to redeem us? What adjectives does Peter use to describe the blood of Christ? Why are each of the words describing the blood of Christ significant?

**Discuss:** How would you explain to a nonbeliever the concept of redemption and why Jesus had to die in order for us to be redeemed?

**Discuss:** As we've already learned, the redeemer had to be a relative, a “kinsman.” This reminds us that God had to become related to us—He had to become human—so He could die for us and redeem us. Philippians 2:6-8 says, “*who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,<sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.<sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*” What do you learn about God becoming human (while always also maintaining His deity) in the Person of Jesus Christ from the Philippians passage?

**Discuss:** Hebrews 2:14-15 says, “*Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,<sup>15</sup> and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.*” According to the Hebrews passage, why was it essential that Jesus become human?

The entire community rejoiced with Ruth and her good news that she would marry Boaz. The prayer of the community was that God would bless Boaz and Ruth with children (4:11-12). Children are always a blessing from the Lord, but especially so in those days because children would not only perpetuate the nation of Israel, but also because God would bring the Messiah to earth through Israel.

Notice that the community prayed that Ruth would be as blessed with children as Rachel and Leah (4:12) who bore to Jacob eight sons who were part of the foundation of the nation of Israel (Genesis 29:31-30:24; 35:18), and as the family of Perez (4:12). Boaz was a descendant of/ Perez's mother Tamar, whose name is found in Jesus' family tree even though she was not a godly woman (Matthew 1:3).

**Discuss:** What are some positive differences Boaz brought into Ruth's life up to this point? How are they similar to the positive differences your "heavenly Boaz," Jesus, has brought into your life?

## 2. Ruth gave birth to Obed, who would become the grandfather of King David and appear in Jesus' family tree (4:13b-22).

The women of the community praised the Lord for also giving Naomi, Obed's grandmother, a kinsman-redeemer (4:14). Obed would continue the family line, protect the family's inheritance, and take care of Naomi.

Obed would be a blessing to all of Israel as he would eventually have a son named Jesse who would have a son named David, who would become one of Israel's greatest kings (4:22). Of course, David would also become the ancestor of Jesus, known as "*the son of David*" (Matthew 1:1).

**Discuss:** What are some ways we can be sure to encourage our children and grandchildren (or relatives who are children if we have none of our own) toward God?

**Discuss:** Looking back over the story of Ruth, name some instances where you see God's plan unfold for Ruth's life. Looking back over your own life, name some instances in which you see God's plan unfolding in your own life.

**Discuss:** Looking back over the story of Ruth, name some instances where you see God's grace in Ruth's life. Looking back over your own life, name some instances in which you've seen God's grace in your own life.

**Discuss:** In Chapter 1, Ruth does not know of Boaz at all; in Chapter 2, Ruth hears of Boaz and relies on his gifts; in Chapter 3, Ruth yields her life to Boaz and his instructions; in Chapter 4, Ruth enters into a forever relationship with Boaz. How does each chapter parallel your own journey with Christ?

### For Further Study:

"What is Redemption?" article at [www.crosswalk.com](http://www.crosswalk.com)

"Who Was Obed in the Bible?" article at [www.gotquestions.org](http://www.gotquestions.org)