

LIFEGROUP NOTES: RUTH 3:1-18

As ever, please use (or discard!) these ideas as is most suitable for your group. Don't feel you have to use everything.

Note on the Guardian-Redeemer: The guardian-redeemer was one of the great provisions of God for family life in the OT. When people found themselves in difficulty, the obligation was on the family, particularly the GR (a close relative), to help the family members out of their need. This might involve, e.g., buying them out of poverty, securing their property from being lost to the family, or ensuring their legal rights. And if a man died childless, a close relative would marry the widow in order to raise up children as heirs to the dead husband's name and property. (Further references: Lev 25:25,47-49; Num 35:19; Dt 25:5-6).

Introduction:

1. Recap the story so far: summarize Ruth chs.1-2 in your own words.

2. Then read Ruth 3:1-18.

FOR DISCUSSION:

3. Verses 1-9 tell how Ruth applied to the guardian-redeemer (Boaz) for help. It is a picture of reaching out in faith. In what way did Ruth "risk everything" in order to place her trust in the redeemer? What does it mean for us to surrender everything in order to reach out to Christ, our Redeemer? Have you done this?
4. Verse 9 is Ruth's request for marriage (compare Ezek 16:8). On what grounds does she make this appeal (v.9)? How do we "claim" the covenant obligations and promises of our Redeemer (see, e.g., 1Jn 1:9)? An old hymn speaks of us "*Standing on the promises of God*" – what is your experience of living like this?
5. See vv.10-13: How did Ruth's redeemer respond? What assurances did He give her? How does our Redeemer respond when we reach out to Him in faith (see, e.g., Mt 11:28; Jn 6:37)? How well have you grasped this assurance?
6. See vv.14-18: How do these verses hint that Ruth and Naomi's story will not end in emptiness but fullness? How does this foreshadow what our Redeemer, the Lord Jesus Christ, has won for us? And though we, like Ruth, are waiting (v.18) for the consummation of our redemption story, why can we wait quietly and confidently (compare, e.g., Jn 14:1-3; Php 1:6; 3:20-21; 1Jn3:2)?

Responding in Prayer

- Thank God for our Redeemer and His gracious promises. Pray about areas of trouble or anxiety in your life where you need to rest in His promises and to remember that He will not rest until His redeeming work in you is complete.

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