

Gleanings of Grace

Ruth 3 and 4:1-12

Lesson 8

The book of Ruth occurred during the time of the judges, which was one of Israel's lowest points in its history. This story is a breath of fresh air as it recounts to us a love story, a story of redemption in the midst of a time when so many of God's people were not honoring Him. What a beautiful reminder that God loves to work beauty amidst ugliness.

OBSERVATION: Read Ruth 3:1-4:12

1. Read Ruth 3:1-4:12 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through this section of Ruth, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to the *LORD*, *Boaz*, and *Ruth*.
Key Words: *LORD*, *Naomi*, *Ruth*, *Boaz*, and *redeemed/redemption/buy/bought*
3. The contrasting words *but* and *however* are used five times in Ruth 3:1-4:12. Mark the words. Choose one instance of their use and record what is being contrasted.
4. The term of conclusion *therefore* is used two times. Mark the word. Choose one instance of its use; record the conclusion and what it was based upon.

Background:

1. The story of Ruth occurred during a very dark time in Israel's history. The book of Judges closes with a summary statement of that time. What does Judges 21:25 reveal about that time?

- Using Ruth 1:1-5, create a summary of the background of the book by jotting down the facts from the following verses.

verses 1,2 There was a _____ in the land.

A man of Bethlehem (Elimelech), took his _____ and two _____ to live in _____.

verse 3 Elimelech _____ .

verse 4 His sons took _____ of the women of _____.

verse 5 Her sons also _____.

- Naomi heard there was now bread in Israel. She decided to return home. She told her daughters-in-law to stay behind in Moab with their people. Ruth objected. What was her response to Naomi? Ruth 1:16-17

- Although Naomi objected, feeling like the LORD had let her down and she had nothing to offer Ruth, the two women traveled to Bethlehem. *There was a relative of Naomi's husband, a man of great wealth...* Ruth 2:1. What was his name?

- What did Ruth request of Naomi? verse 2

- Ruth found great favor in the eyes of Boaz. He instructed his servants to leave extra food for her and to protect her. He was impressed with what Ruth had done for her mother-in-law. Using verse 12, record Boaz's words to Ruth.

Read Ruth 3:1-5

- After hearing of Boaz's kindness to Ruth, Naomi gave Ruth some instructions. Using verses 3 and 4, list what she told Ruth to do.

Note: The act of lying next to Boaz and uncovering his feet was, in that culture, an act of submission, not of enticement.

- According to verse 1, what was Naomi's motivation?

1.) Notice Naomi's *bitter* attitude in Ruth 1:20,21. Who was her focus?

a.) Her focus has now shifted to *Ruth*. Recall a time in your life, when your focus shifted from you to someone else. What are your thoughts as you consider that time?

2. Ruth would not only show her submission to Boaz, what did she say to Naomi in Ruth 3:5?

a. Considering that Naomi understood the ways of the culture and Ruth did not, what can we learn from Ruth's choice to obey something that probably did not make sense to her?

Challenge: Read the entire book of Ruth. What did you discover about Ruth's character?

Read Ruth 3:6-18

1. Ruth did as Naomi instructed her. At midnight, Boaz was *startled, and turned himself; and there, a woman (Ruth) was lying at his feet*. What did Ruth say to Boaz? Ruth 3:9

a. Ruth was exercising her right of redemption. It was the duty of a close relative to take care of a widow of his relative's. She could have demanded her right. Yet, she wisely followed Naomi's instructions to be humble and submissive, rather than demanding her right. What can we learn from her example?

2. Reflect upon Boaz's reaction to her actions and words in verse 10. What impressed him about her?

3. In verse 11, we see that Boaz committed to *do for her all that she requested*. What word did he use to describe Ruth's reputation?

a. Define the word *virtuous*.

b. What do these two proverbs declare about a *virtuous/excellent woman*?

Proverbs 12:4

Proverbs 31:10

c. What behaviors are contrary to the word *virtuous*?

4. Although Boaz was willing to exercise his responsibility as the close relative, what was his concern? Ruth 3:12
5. Using verse 13, what did Boaz tell Ruth to do?
6. Ruth did as Boaz instructed. In the morning, she returned home to her mother-in-law. What did Naomi tell her to do? verse 18
 - a. Ruth had claimed her right to marriage. She would either be married to the closer relative or she would be married to Boaz. Yet, at that moment, her specific future was unknown. What helps you to *sit still* in times that tend to feed anxiety?

Read Ruth 4:1-12

1. The next morning, Boaz *went to the gate and sat down there; and behold, the close relative of whom Boaz had spoken came by*. Boaz told him that there was land available for him to *redeem*, but with the land, came *Ruth, the Moabiteess*. If he redeemed her, what would be his responsibility? verse 5
 - a. What was the response of the nearest *close relative*? verse 6
2. The man responded in accord with the *custom* in Israel. What did he do?

3. What was the response of:

a. Boaz (verses 9,10)

1.) What is your impression of his response?

b. the people (verses 11,12)

1.) Indeed, from Ruth came a glorious genealogy. According to Ruth 4:21,22, who was her great-grandson?

Redemption

1. The genealogy did not stop at David. From David's line came the Great Redeemer. Thankfully, the story of the *children of Israel* did not end with David. Who is our Great Redeemer?
Galatians 3:13

2. Define the word *redeem*.

3. Bask in the wonder of Christ's *redemption* of you. Using the following verses, what can we know about our *redemption*?

Galatians 3:13

Galatians 4:5

Titus 2:14

1 Peter 1:18,19

Revelation 5:9

4. In your own words, profess what God has *redeemed* you from and what He has delivered you to.

REVIEW: Read Ruth 3:1-4:12

1. What can you learn from the example of:

Naomi

Ruth

Boaz

2. In what ways have you been challenged by this lesson?

*He has sent redemption to His people;
He has commanded His covenant forever:
Holy and awesome is His name.
- Psalm 111:9*

Observation Worksheet

Ruth 3

¹ Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, shall I not seek security for you, that it may be well with you?" ² Now Boaz, whose young women you were with, is he not our relative? In fact, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. ³ Therefore wash yourself and anoint yourself, put on your best garment and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. ⁴ Then it shall be, when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies; and you shall go in, uncover his feet, and lie down; and he will tell you what you should do." ⁵ And she said to her, "All that you say to me I will do." ⁶ So she went down to the threshing floor and did according to all that her mother-in-law instructed her. ⁷ And after Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was cheerful, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain; and she came softly, uncovered his feet, and lay down. ⁸ Now it happened at midnight that the man was startled, and turned himself; and there, a woman was lying at his feet. ⁹ And he said, "Who are you?" So she answered, "I am Ruth, your maidservant. Take your maidservant under your wing, for you are a close relative." ¹⁰ Then he said, "Blessed are you of the LORD, my daughter! For you have shown more kindness at the end than at the beginning, in that you did not go after young men, whether poor or rich. ¹¹ And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you request, for all the people of my town know that you are a virtuous woman. ¹² Now it is true that I am a close relative; however, there is a relative closer than I. ¹³ Stay this night, and in the morning it shall be that if he will perform the duty of a close relative for you--good; let him do it. But if he does not want to perform the duty for you, then I will perform the duty for you, as the LORD lives! Lie down until morning." ¹⁴ So she lay at his feet until morning, and she arose before one could recognize another. Then he said, "Do not let it be known that the woman came to the threshing floor." ¹⁵ Also he said, "Bring the shawl that is on you and hold it." And when she held it, he measured six ephahs of barley, and laid it on her. Then she went into the city. ¹⁶ So when she came to her mother-in-law, she said, "Is that you, my daughter?" Then she told her all that the man had done for her. ¹⁷ And she said, "These six ephahs of barley he gave me; for he said to me, 'Do not go empty-handed to your mother-in-law.'" ¹⁸ Then she said, "Sit still, my daughter, until you know how the matter will turn out; for the man will not rest until he has concluded the matter this day."

Ruth 4:1-12

Now Boaz went up to the gate and sat down there; and behold, the close relative of whom Boaz had spoken came by. So Boaz said, "Come aside, friend, sit down here." So he came aside and sat down. ² And he took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, "Sit down here." So they sat down. ³ Then he said to the close relative, "Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, sold the piece of land which belonged to our brother Elimelech. ⁴ And I thought to inform you, saying, 'Buy it back in the presence of the inhabitants and the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, redeem it; but if you will not redeem it, then tell me, that I may know; for there is no one but you to redeem it, and I am next after you.' " And he said, "I will redeem it." ⁵ Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you must also buy it from Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance." ⁶ And the close relative said, "I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I ruin my own inheritance. You redeem my right of redemption for yourself, for I cannot redeem it." ⁷ Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging, to confirm anything: one man took off his sandal and gave it to the other, and this was a confirmation in Israel. ⁸ Therefore the close relative said to Boaz, "Buy it for yourself." So he took off his sandal. ⁹ And Boaz said to the elders and all the people, "You are witnesses this day that I have bought all that was Elimelech's, and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's, from the hand of Naomi. ¹⁰ Moreover, Ruth the Moabitess, the widow of Mahlon, I have acquired as my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brethren and from his position at the gate. You are witnesses this day." ¹¹ And all the people who were at the gate, and the elders, said, "We are witnesses. The LORD make the woman who is coming to your house like Rachel and Leah, the two who built the house of Israel; and may you prosper in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem. ¹² May your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring which the LORD will give you from this young woman."