

## BE A BRINGER

*“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....”* John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

## PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

*“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....”* I Samuel 12:23a

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## Boaz—A Righteous Man

The story of Ruth began with the bitter providence of God in the life of Naomi as she left her land and lost her husband, her sons, and one of her daughters-in-law. But there was sweet providence as well. The famine broke in Judah, and Naomi could go home. Ruth committed herself to care for Naomi. And all the while, a kinsman named Boaz was preserved as a husband for Ruth to raise up an heir for the family name. But the first chapter ends with Naomi overwhelmed with her losses: “The Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me” (1:20).

In chapter 2, the mercy of God breaks through bright enough for even Naomi to see it. We meet Boaz, a man of worth, a man of God, and a relative of Naomi’s husband. We see Ruth taking refuge under the wings of God in a foreign land and being led mercifully by God to the field of Boaz to glean. And we see Naomi recover from her long night of despondency as she exults in God: “[The LORD’s] kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead!” (2:20).

Chapter 2 overflows with hope. Boaz is a God-saturated man in his business and personal relations (2:4, 10–13). Ruth is a God-dependent woman under the wings of God. Naomi is now a God-exalting woman under the sovereignty of God. All the darkness of chapter 1 is gone. God has turned her mourning into dancing. “The Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me” (1:20) has given way to “[His] kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead!” (2:20).

The question Chapter 3 answers is, What do a God-saturated man, a God-dependent young woman, and a God-exalting older woman do when they are filled with hope in the sovereign goodness of God? The answer is that they manifest what I am going to call strategic righteousness.

By righteousness I mean a zeal for doing what is good and right— a zeal for doing what is fitting when God is taken into account as sovereign and merciful. By strategic I mean that there is intention, purposefulness, planning . There is a kind of inactive righteousness that simply avoids evil. But strategic righteousness takes the initiative and dreams of how to make things right.

One of the lessons I have learned from this chapter is that hope helps us dream. Hope helps us think up ways to do good. Hope helps us pursue our ventures with virtue and integrity. It’s hopelessness that makes people think they have to lie and steal and seize illicit pleasures for the moment. But hope, based on the confidence that a sovereign God is for us gives us a thrilling impulse that I call strategic righteousness. We see it in Naomi in 3:1–5, in Ruth in 3:6–9, and in Boaz in 3:10–15.

To hear what Boaz says to Ruth (3:10-15) in the right way, you have to remember that it is midnight, they are under the stars, and he is looking down into the face of the woman he desires, covered with his own cloak next to his feet. And he stops it for the sake of righteousness and does not touch her. Then comes a word of magnificent righteousness and self-control. He says in effect, “According to custom, Ruth, there is another who has prior claim to you, and I won’t be able to proceed until all things are duly settled with him.” What a man! What a woman!

## KEY VERSE

Ruth 3:11

*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. NKJV*

## WEEKLY READINGS

### Monday: Ruth 3:1-18

#### Introduction

1. How would you describe Naomi's plan for Ruth to approach Boaz about marriage? What were the risks involved?
2. Describe a time in your life when your confidence in God gave you boldness.

### Tuesday: Ruth 3:10-11; Psalm 112:1-4

#### Boaz is Obedient

3. In what ways did Boaz demonstrate his obedience to God?
4. How would you describe the way that Boaz treated Ruth?

### Wednesday: Ruth 3:12-14; Proverbs 10:9; Proverbs 11:3

#### Boaz is Honest

5. Boaz wanted to marry Ruth. What reason did he give for why he might not be able to?
6. Describe a time in your life where being honest meant possibly forgoing something you wanted.

### Thursday: Ruth 3:14; 1 Corinthians 6:18-20

#### Boaz is Pure

7. How did Boaz demonstrate purity in this situation?
8. What characteristics did Boaz demonstrate that helped him withstand temptation?
9. What are some areas in your life where you need God's help to live with purity?

### Friday: Ruth 3:15-18; Psalm 112:5-10

#### Boaz is Generous

10. What are some ways that Boaz demonstrated his generosity towards Ruth and Naomi throughout the book of Ruth?
11. In what ways has God been generous to you?
12. What impresses you most about Boaz? How can you apply his example to your life?