

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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Ruth

Loss, Love and Legacy
GROWTH GUIDE

Handout: 06/17/18

Study: 06/24/18

Sweet Redemption!

From one point of view, Naomi’s story is like anybody else’s in Israel in the days of the judges, when there was no king in Israel. Elimelech made his decisions on the basis of what he thought would be best for himself and his family. He did what was right in his own eyes. It brought his wife to the brink of ruin, eventually, but he could not have foreseen that. Her only way out was through her foreign daughter-in-law, whose loyalty to her because of her loyalty to Yahweh, paved the way for the kinsman-redeemer to rescue them both. At one level, this might seem to be a rather ordinary, somewhat limited, story of family crisis. Yet it merits a whole book of the Bible, indicating that the revelation it contains is clearly strategic to our understanding of the mind and purpose of God. The necessity and provision of redemption is at the very heart of God’s plan and the plan of His heart.

One cannot study this final chapter without seeing the centrality of Boaz, the redeemer, as the only resolution of the problems faced by Ruth and Naomi. He takes the initiative in bringing about the act of redemption (v. 1). He pays the price (vv. 8–9). He publicly claims his own (4:9–10). He provides a name and inheritance where before there was only ruin (v. 14). He restores and sustains Naomi, even in an old age, through the birth of Obed (v. 15). Ruth and Naomi could have done none of these things themselves. They were entirely dependent on the covenant faithfulness and personal compassion of Boaz, their kinsman-redeemer. And in this way grace meets and answers the otherwise insoluble problems posed by the failure of the days of the judges.

Through New Testament eyes we can therefore see that what God did for Ruth and Naomi through Boaz, He has accomplished for all who cast themselves upon His mercy, in Christ. We, too, have suffered from the absence of a king in our lives, or rather by the usurpation by ourselves of the throne, which rightly belongs to God alone. We, too, need a redeemer as we suffer the deprivation of our inheritance as the just consequences of our sin and rebellion. We are equally unable to save ourselves, and no other kinsman could possibly meet our need.

“But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law.” (Gal. 4:4–5).

By His Incarnation, the Son of God became our kinsman so that by His sacrificial, atoning death He might also become our Redeemer. All our fundamental human needs and problems find their solution at the Cross of Christ, and in His glorious Resurrection.

Source: “The Preacher’s Commentary: Judges, Ruth”

KEY VERSE

Ruth 4:9

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. NKJV

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Ruth 4:1-22

Introduction

1. The book of Ruth begins with three funerals, but ends in a wedding. What is your favorite story or movie that has a happy ending?
2. How do you define the word redemption?

Tuesday: Ruth 4:1-13a; Titus 2:11-14

Ruth Gets A Husband

3. What reason did the unnamed kinsman give for not wanting to be the redeemer?
4. Thinking about the idea of the kinsman redeemer, what parallels can you see between what Boaz does for Naomi and Ruth and what God does for us?

Wednesday: Ruth 4:13-16; Psalm 127:3

Naomi Gets A Son

5. Ruth 4:14–15 speaks about the newborn son as a "redeemer." In what ways does this child redeem Ruth and Naomi?
6. How has Naomi's views about God and life changed throughout the book of Ruth?

Thursday: Ruth 4:17-22; 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Israel Gets A King

7. How did God use Ruth and Boaz's baby, Obed, to be a source of blessing to many?
8. The last verse of the book of Ruth reveals that Obed is the grandfather of King David. How does this fact demonstrate that God was guiding this family?
9. Ruth was just an obscure Moabite girl when God chose her to be part of His plan. David was just an unknown shepherd boy when God chose him to be part of His plan. What does this say about the kind of people God uses?

Friday: Matthew 1:5; Micah 5:2; Luke 4:14-19

The World Gets A Redeemer

10. Ruth left behind an eternal legacy. What legacy would you like to leave for your family? For the world?
11. Boaz and Ruth are mentioned in the genealogy of Jesus.. This would have been unimaginable to Ruth while she was in Moab. How is God still writing your story?
12. What has God taught you through this study of Ruth?