

# Redeeming Love

## The Book of Ruth

### Redeemed By Love

#### Key idea:

The book of Ruth concludes with a beautiful picture of redemption through love, as Boaz and Ruth are united in marriage, Naomi's emptiness is filled with an heir, and God's greater plan unfolds through the lineage that leads to David—and ultimately to Jesus.

#### Key text:

Ruth 4

Meanwhile Boaz went up to the town gate and sat there. When the kinsman-redeemer he had mentioned came along, Boaz said, “Come over here, my friend, and sit down.” So he went over and sat down. <sup>2</sup> Boaz took ten of the elders of the town and said, “Sit here,” and they did so. <sup>3</sup> Then he said to the kinsman-redeemer, “Naomi, who has come back from Moab, is selling the piece of land that belonged to our brother Elimelech. <sup>4</sup> I thought I should bring the matter to your attention and suggest that you buy it in the presence of these seated here and in the presence of the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, do so. But if you will not, tell me, so I will know. For no one has the right to do it except you, and I am next in line.” “I will redeem it,” he said. <sup>5</sup> Then Boaz said, “On the day you buy the land from Naomi and from Ruth the Moabitess, you acquire the dead man’s widow, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property.” <sup>6</sup> At this, the kinsman-redeemer said, “Then I cannot redeem it because I might endanger my own estate. You redeem it yourself. I cannot do it.” <sup>7</sup> (Now in earlier times in Israel, for the redemption and transfer of property to become final, one party took off his sandal and gave it to the other. This was the method of legalizing transactions in Israel.) <sup>8</sup> So the kinsman-redeemer said to Boaz, “Buy it yourself.” And he removed his sandal. <sup>9</sup> Then Boaz announced to the elders and all the people, “Today you are witnesses that I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelech, Kilion and Mahlon. <sup>10</sup> I have also acquired Ruth the Moabitess, Mahlon’s widow, as my wife, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property, so that his name will not disappear from among his family or from the town records. Today you are witnesses!” <sup>11</sup> Then the elders and all those at the gate said, “We are witnesses. May the LORD make the woman who is coming into your home like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the house of Israel. May you have standing in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem. <sup>12</sup> Through the offspring the LORD gives you by this young woman, may your family be like that of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah.” <sup>13</sup> So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife.

Then he went to her, and the LORD enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son. <sup>14</sup> The women said to Naomi: "Praise be to the LORD, who this day has not left you without a kinsman-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel!" <sup>15</sup> He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. For your daughter-in-law, who loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has given him birth." <sup>16</sup> Then Naomi took the child, laid him in her lap and cared for him. <sup>17</sup> The women living there said, "Naomi has a son." And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David. <sup>18</sup>This, then, is the family line of Perez: Perez was the father of Hezron, <sup>19</sup> Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab, <sup>20</sup> Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, <sup>21</sup> Salmon the father of Boaz, Boaz the father of Obed, <sup>22</sup>Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David.

### **Key points:**

1. God is always at work, even when we can't see or understand it.
2. The book of Ruth reveals God's redemptive plan beyond individual stories.
3. God's grace (chesed) always goes beyond the minimum requirements.
4. Our faith should be active, even as we trust in God's work.
5. God can bring good out of difficult seasons in our lives.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. How does the story of Ruth challenge our understanding of God's plan during difficult seasons of life?
2. In what ways does Boaz's character reflect Christ-like qualities, and how can we embody similar traits in our own lives?
3. How does the concept of 'kinsman redeemer' in Ruth's story parallel Jesus' role as our Redeemer?
4. What can we learn from Naomi's journey from bitterness to joy about trusting God's plan even when we don't understand it?
5. How does the book of Ruth demonstrate God's inclusion of outsiders (like Ruth the Moabitess) into His redemptive plan?
6. In what ways does the story of Ruth encourage us to be active participants in God's work, even as we trust in His sovereignty?
7. How can we cultivate a practice of speaking blessings over others, as demonstrated multiple times in the book of Ruth?

8. What does the unexpected connection to King David's lineage teach us about the meaning of the story in the book of Ruth? What does it teach us about the far-reaching impact of our faithfulness?
9. How does the concept of 'chesed' (covenant faithfulness) in Ruth's story deepen our understanding of God's love and mercy?
10. In what ways does the book of Ruth challenge us to look beyond our immediate circumstances to see God's larger redemptive narrative?

### **Practical Applications:**

1. This week, try to identify one situation where you're struggling to see God at work. Commit to praying about it daily, asking God to reveal His purposes.
2. Practice speaking blessings over your family members or close friends this week. Share your experience with the group next time.
3. Reflect on a past difficult season in your life. Write down ways you now see God was working, even if it wasn't apparent at the time.
4. Choose one area where you can go "beyond the minimum" in showing love or grace to someone this week.
5. Memorize Romans 8:28 as a reminder of God's work in all circumstances.
6. Listen to the new worship song [He Will Be](#). Meditate on the faithfulness and graciousness of God, and He is your Provider, covenant Protector, and merciful redeemer.