

# Ruth

## THE MARRIAGE OF RUTH AND BOAZ

### *Review*

- Ruth, lying at the feet of Boaz may have been odd to Ruth, but it was in accordance with Israelite custom and law. It was family business-nothing romantic.
- It was Boaz's decision on how he would find a kinsman redeemer for Ruth. Either he could marry her or he could find someone to marry her.

### *Introduction*

This chapter brings our story to a dramatic end at the city gate when Boaz makes contact with a relative of Naomi's who was even a closer kinsman than him. The city gate was where business and civic affairs were taken care of. In the case of Naomi, a legal matter needed to be judged by the thoughtful elders. The redemption of the field of Elimelech and raising up descendants to him had to be settled. Naomi was being forced to sell the inheritance of her husband so there was a need to find a kinsman to redeem in order to keep it in the family.

### *Progression of Events*

- Boaz went to the city gate and waited until Naomi's close relative walked by. When he did, "Boaz called to him, 'Come here, friend, and sit down.' So the man came over and sat down. Boaz gathered ten of the older leaders of the city and told them, 'Sit down here.' So they sat down" (Ruth 4:1-2).
- Boaz spoke to the relative, "Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, wants to sell the piece of land that belonged to our relative Elimelech. So I decided to tell you about it. If you want to buy back the land, then buy it in front of the people who are sitting here and in front of the older leaders of my people. But if you don't want to buy it, tell me, because you are the only one who can buy it, and I am next after you.' The close relative answered, 'I will buy back the land.'" (Ruth 4:4).

- “Then Boaz explained, ‘When you buy the land from Naomi, you must also marry Ruth, the Moabite, the dead man’s wife. That way, the land will stay in the dead man’s name’” (Ruth 4:5).

- The relative replied to Boaz, “I can’t buy back the land. If I did, I might harm what I can pass on to my own sons. I cannot buy the land back so buy it yourself.” Long ago in Israel when people traded or bought back something, one person took off his sandal and gave it to the other person. This was the proof of ownership in Israel.” So the close relative said to Boaz, “Buy the land yourself,” and he took off his sandal” (Ruth 4:6-8).

- Boaz said to everyone gathered, “You are witnesses today. I am buying from Naomi everything that belonged to Elimelech and Kilion and Mahlon. I am also taking Ruth, the Moabite who was the wife of Mahlon, as my wife. I am doing this so her dead husband’s property will stay in his name and his name will not be separated from his family and his hometown. You are witnesses today” (Ruth 4:9,10).

- “So Boaz took Ruth home as his wife and had sexual relations with her. The Lord let her become pregnant, and she gave birth to a son. The women told Naomi, ‘Praise the Lord who gave you this grandson. May he become famous in Israel. He will give you new life and will take care of you in your old age because of your daughter-in-law who loves you. She is better for you than seven sons, because she has given birth to your grandson’” (Ruth 4:13-15). Ruth had been unable to conceive the entire time she was married to Mahlon. Now in her faithful obedience to God she was rewarded with a son. The women of Bethlehem now considered Ruth, to be of more worth than seven sons.

- Boaz had moved quickly to finalize the transaction. The elders were witness to Ruth becoming his wife, and he took possession of all that Elimelech owned. In addition to this, he would raise a son to continue the name of Elimelech. All the family members are then mentioned at the end of the chapter except for Orpah. She now faded into anonymity just as the nearer kinsman had.

- “The neighbors gave the boy his name, saying, ‘This boy was born for Naomi.’ They named him Obed. Obed was the father of Jesse, and Jesse was the father of David” (Ruth 4:17). Naomi, the empty one was now full; Naomi, the bitter one was now blessed.

- The last few verses are a chronicle of ten names of ancestors and descendants of Obed, the son of Boaz and Ruth. This chronicle of names begins with Perez, the eldest son of Judah and ends with David, the king of Israel. The most significant genealogy found in scripture is the lineage of Jesus Christ. This chronicle is part of the lineage that fulfills the Messianic promises given to Judah centuries before. “The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto Him shall the gathering of the people be” (Genesis 49:10).

## ***Did You Know...***

In order for redemption to take place, a kinsman redeemer must...

1. have the right to redeem. (Leviticus 25:48; 25:25 Ruth 3:12–13) He must be kin.
2. be able to redeem (Ruth 4:4–6). He must be free of any calamity or need of redemption himself.
3. must be willing to redeem (Ruth 4:6ff)
4. Redemption was completed when the price was completely paid (Leviticus 25:27; Ruth 4:7-11).

## *Discussion and Questions*

1. Who were the witnesses?
2. What caused the near kinsman to change his mind to redeem Elimelech's field?
3. What does the custom of taking off one's shoe mean?
4. What do you think Boaz was really interested in, the land or Ruth?
5. Name the son born to Boaz and Ruth.
6. What is the significance of the genealogy of this chapter?

## *Memory Verse*

"The women told Naomi, Praise the Lord who gave you this grandson. May he become famous in Israel."

Ruth 4:14

## **Craft: Making Sandals**

### *Materials*

- Cardboard
- Macramé yarn
- Hole puncher
- Black marker

### *Directions*

1. Trace each student's foot on the cardboard.
2. Have children cut out the tracing and punch holes along both sides of the sandal.
3. Give each child a piece of macramé yarn. Take the macramé yarn and lace it through the holes. Leave enough yarn to be wrapped around the calf.
4. Write the memory verse on the sandal with a black marker.

**Discuss** with the children what it meant in Israel to give someone your sandal.