

RUTH 4:1-12

1. In verses 1-6, Boaz follows through with his promise to Ruth and asks the closer relative, or kinsman redeemer, to redeem Ruth via marriage. The closer relative declines the right to redeem Ruth along with Naomi's land.
 - What is the significance of these events taking place before ten elders at the "gate" of the city? See 2 Samuel 15:2-6 and Amos 5:15.
 - What do the details of this event teach you about how God works in the world?

2. Take a look at Leviticus 25:25-28 and Deuteronomy 25:5-10.
 - What do you learn about the Jewish custom of redeeming property and redeeming a widow through levirate marriage?
 - How does this background inform your understanding of why the closer relative declined to marry Ruth?
 - Self-interest prevented the closer relative from redeeming Ruth and by extension Naomi. In what ways can you put the needs of others above your own self-interests this week?

3. Compare Ruth 4:1 with 2:3 and notice the "chance" happenings in each story.
 - What do you learn about God's sovereignty in these verses?
 - How can you find instruction and encouragement in how God sovereignly works in tandem with the faithfulness of his people?

4. Verse 7-12 describe how Boaz wins the right to marry Ruth. The people respond with a prayer of blessing for both Boaz and Ruth.
 - How have things changed for Naomi and Ruth over the course of this story? Take note of how things started in 1:19-21.
 - How can you find encouragement in this story of God's provision for Ruth and Naomi?