

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, January 25, 2009

Passage: Ruth 4

Memory Passage: Ruth 4:14

**TODAY:** *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

### DAY 1 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Ruth 4:1-6.** How does Boaz address the redeemer? The Hebrew word for “friend” in this passage literally can mean “so and so” or “a certain one.” Why would the writer of this story leave out the name of this man?
- (b) Put yourself in the shoes of the relative. What would this experience have been like? Would you have felt like you had control? The redeemer was initially positive, what changed his mind? What words or phrases in particular?
- (c) Read Matthew 10:16 and Romans 16:19. How did Boaz display wisdom about what is good? How did he remain innocent of evil? What motivated Boaz to do all of this?
- (d) *Think about it:* What is the dividing line between being wise about what is good and being manipulative? Read Philippians 2:3-4. How did Boaz reflect this verse in what he did? How do you do in reflecting this verse in the way you deal with others? Are you motivated out of complete self-interest or the interest of others?
- (e) *Family:* Read Ruth 4:1-6. How did Boaz take charge of the situation? What was his motivation through all of this? Was Boaz dishonest in his dealings with his relative? What does Boaz’s willingness to tell the truth even in a difficult circumstance teach us? Is it always easy to tell the truth? Telling the truth sometimes requires faith. Faith that God is going to take care of us even in the midst of truth. Pray that the Lord would give you the faith to be honest in all that you do.

### DAY 2 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Ruth 4:7-10.** What does the action in verse seven represent? What does this transaction mean for our story?
- (b) Does it seem that Boaz is scrupulously following the law through this whole process? Who do we finally find out who Ruth was married to?
- (c) Boaz is willing at a cost to himself (aka his inheritance will be split) to redeem Ruth. How is this like what Christ did for us? What did it cost Him to redeem us (Galatians 3:13)? Why did Boaz redeem Ruth? Why did Christ redeem us?
- (d) *Family:* Read Ruth 4:7-10. What’s the deal with giving someone a shoe? Boaz in this passage redeems Ruth and Naomi. What does it mean to redeem? What does it mean that Christ has redeemed those who have faith in Him? How does that affect the way we live? Thank God that He sent Christ to redeem us from the power of sin and death and enables us to live lives that are devoted to Him.

### DAY 3 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Ruth 4:11-12.** Do the people approve of what Boaz has done? What blessings do they give to Boaz?
- (b) Who are Rachel and Leah (Genesis 28-30)? Who did their children come to represent? So what is the blessing that they are giving to him?
- (c) Who is Perez and Tamar (Genesis 38 and Matthew 1:2)? How does Tamar’s story parallel Ruth’s and Boaz’s? How are Ruth and Boaz better examples than Tamar and Judah?
- (d) *Family:* Read Ruth 4:11-12. Talk about Rachel and Leah. Who were they? Who were their kids? Why would these people’s comments be a blessing to them? Did they value children? Why are children important? Are children a blessing? How are they a blessing? Thank God for your children and tell them how they are a blessing to you.

### DAY 4 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Ruth 4:13-17.** In verse 13, Ruth and Boaz have a son. How is this a miracle in its own right (Ruth 1:4)? Who does the text say was responsible for the conception? Why is this important?
- (b) How has God’s hand been affirming and blessing Boaz’s journey all along the way?
- (c) What do the women say to Naomi now? How has Ruth been better than seven sons? Naomi said that God had made her return empty in chapter 1. List all the ways that God has brought fullness to her life?
- (d) *Think about it:* How has God’s plan been unfolding all this time? Was it always easy to see how He was going to bring about the end? Do we sometimes want to know how things are going to turn out before we act? What role does faith play in all of this?

(e) *Family*: Read Ruth 4:13-17. List all the ways that God has blessed Naomi and Ruth. Did God leave them lacking anything? Now list out all the ways that God has blessed your family? Is there anything that your family is in need of? Take some time and thank God for all the blessings He has given to your family and ask Him to continue His faithfulness with your current needs.

**DAY 5 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT**

**READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Ruth 4:17-22.** Who does Ruth's great grandson end up being? What does this say about God's gracious hand?

(b) Who eventually comes from the line of David (Matthew 1)? What does this say about the even greater blessing that God bestows up Ruth, Boaz and Naomi? Do you see God as a generous and gracious God?

(c) Has God ever done something like this to you? Has He ever answered a prayer with such generosity that you were astounded? Think of a story and right it down? Think about sharing it on Sunday with the rest of the group.

(d) *Family*: Read 4:17-22. Talk about genealogy. Who is David? Why would this be an honor? Look at Matthew 1. How has God increased Ruth and Boaz's honor even more? What does this say about God's graciousness? Thank God that He is a gracious and generous God and that He cares for His people better than we can even ask.

**DAY 6 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT**

**READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE**

(e) *Think back through what you have learned each day this week.* Read Ruth 4. What has stuck out to you this week? How has the culmination of the story of Ruth affected you? What are you needing to apply to your own life? Do you believe that God is truly looking to bless you even though it might mean going through a difficult time? Pray that God would allow the truths of this book to sink deeply into your heart and mind so that you might live in God's gracious providence.

**DATE:** January 25, 2009

**PASSAGE:** Ruth 4

***Redemptive Providence***

*“Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without a redeemer!”*