

Ruth

Lesson #5 – Chapter 3

Read through Chapter 3 before beginning this lesson.

1. What offer does Naomi make to Ruth (vs. 1)?
2. What kind of *security* (KJV *rest*; NIV *a home*) does Naomi want for Ruth and with whom (vss. 1-2)?
3. What is Naomi's plan for finding security for Ruth in vss. 3-4?
4. How does Ruth respond to this proposal? See vss. 5-6.
5. In what way do Ruth's actions here reveal the commitment she made to Naomi in 1:16-17?
6. Ruth follows Naomi's plan and goes to the threshing floor. How does she explain her presence there when Boaz finds her in the middle of the night (vs. 9)?
7. *The New Treasury of Scripture Knowledge* notes the phrase from vs. 9 *spread your covering* literally means "to spread your wing" which was an emblem of protection. It also states that even in more modern times when a Jew married a woman he would throw the skirts of his robes over her to signify he had taken her under his protection. What is Ruth asking Boaz to do and why? See also 3:1.
8. How is Boaz an answer to his own prayer for Ruth? See 2:12 and 3:9.

9. What is the significance of Boaz being a *close relative* (KJV *near kinsman*; NIV *kinsman-redeemer*)? Why was this relationship so important to the Israelites? See Deut. 25:5-10 and Num. 27:1-10.
10. What does Boaz think of being the object of Ruth's proposal (vss. 10-11)? How does he regard Ruth?
11. What term does Boaz use when he speaks to Ruth in vss. 10-11? What does that term reveal about the purity of their relationship and their seasons of life?
12. Boaz tells Ruth she is regarded as a woman of excellence. What character qualities have you observed about Ruth from Chapters 1-3 that show she is indeed a woman of virtue and excellence?
13. The same terms that are used to describe Ruth as a woman of excellence are also used to describe Boaz in 2:1 (literally *a man of valor*). What qualities have you observed about Boaz that reveal the caliber of his character?
14. Though Boaz agrees to Ruth's request, he reveals a problem. What is it (vss. 12-13)?
15. What measures does Boaz take to protect Ruth from gossip and to show her kindness in vss. 14-17?
16. What is Naomi's counsel to Ruth in vs. 18?
17. Both Ruth and Boaz are described as people with excellent character. How is character built into the heart and life of a person? See Prov. 1:1-7; 2:1-22.
18. Someone once said to do great things well you must start with the little things and do them well also. Describe the process of taking care of the little things in your character so you can be described as a woman of excellence.

19. Though Ruth may have experienced fear and nervousness at asking Boaz to be her kinsman-redeemer, we don't see it in her actions. Explain how Ruth's actions show she put her trust in the God of Israel, under whose wings she had come to seek refuge.

20. Choose 1 passage from the Bible that comforts you when you are afraid. Explain how those truths help you to move from fear and worry to trust and obedience.