



GUIDEBOOK: SESSION SEVEN

RUTH 4:13-22 (NIV)

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ 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!

¹⁵ 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."

¹⁶ Then Naomi took the child, laid him in her lap and cared for him.

¹⁷ The women living there said, "Naomi has a son." And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

¹⁸ This, then, is the family line of Perez: Perez was the father of Hezron,

¹⁹ Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab,

²⁰ Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon,

²¹ Salmon the father of Boaz, Boaz the father of Obed,

²² Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David.

GET ACCLIMATED: REVIEW

Who wrote this passage? Samuel, the prophet and last Judge of Israel

Who did the author write to? God's people living in Israel

What was the occasion or circumstance? To affirm David as the next king of Israel

What kind of writing is this? (i.e. narrative, poem, prophecy, etc.): Narrative

What made the biggest impression on you from our Diving Expeditions so far? What did you see about who God is, who we are, and the world we live in?

TAKE A QUICK LOOK AROUND

What catches your attention in Ruth 4:13-22?

What parallels do you see with your life and/or the world we live in?

What does God say about Himself, about us, and/or about the world we live in?



GENERAL NOTES:

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT KING DAVID?

At the beginning of our expedition, we said that Samuel wrote down the book of Ruth to make a big deal out of David, the second king of Israel. We have part of his genealogy at the end of Ruth ⁴ tracing from Perez the founding father of Bethlehem through Ruth and Boaz and down to David the son of Jesse. To understand why David's family history matters, we'll need to dip our toes into a couple of other sections of Scripture.

What do we learn about David from the following passages?

1 Samuel 16:1-13

1 Samuel 17:1-58

2 Samuel 5:1-10

Acts 13:22

Soon after David takes his throne, God makes him a big promise known as the Davidic Covenant. What does God promise to David in 2 Samuel 7:8-16?

A quick look at Israel's history tells us that David's son Solomon succeeds him as king, but Solomon fails to love God like his father did. As a result, the nation of Israel splits in two after Solomon's death, falls into an ever-descending spiritual spiral, and all God's people suffer in exile under the Assyrian and Babylonian empires. A descendant of David has not ruled the Promised Land as an independent king since. So how can we say that God keeps His promise through the Davidic Covenant?

Who comes from David's family line according to these verses, and how is God's promise to David fulfilled?

Matthew 1:1-17

Luke 1:26-38

Philippians 2:5-11

Revelation 19:11-16

SOME FUN WITH NUMBERS

Certain numbers in the Scriptures can carry more meaning than a simple numerical value. A couple of these special numbers – seven and ten – show up for us in Ruth 4. Let's take a closer look and see if understanding their literary meaning can enhance God's message to us through this passage.

SEVEN

"For your daughter-in-law, who loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has given him birth." (Ruth 4:15b NIV)

As one of the most important numbers in Hebrew literature, seven can represent rest, wholeness, completeness, being ripe, order, stability, and holiness. Check out the following passages and take note of how the number seven shows up:

Genesis 2:1-3

Exodus 20:8-11

Proverbs 26:24-25

Matthew 18:21-22

Revelation 1:9-20

How does this help you understand the women's blessing in Ruth 4:15?

TEN

Boaz took ten of the elders of the town and said, "Sit here," and they did so. (Ruth 4:2)

In Hebrew writings, the number ten can represent divine order and completeness, whether in a positive or a negative sense. For example, God inflicts ten plagues on the Egyptians, He gives His people the Ten Commandments, and a Jewish synagogue must have at least ten members present to hold meetings. It also represents the tithe, an offering given to God and His priests.

Check out the following passages and note how the number ten is used:

Genesis 18:22-33

Ecclesiastes 7:19

Luke 15:8-10

Luke 17:11-19

How does this help you understand why Boaz gathered ten elders at the city gates in Bethlehem for his important business?

CHIASM IN THE BOOK OF RUTH

In Hebrew literature, writers sometimes use a form called "chiasm" to emphasize a point and highlight certain statements or ideas. A chiasm works through a series of ideas in order, climaxes in the center, and then works its way back out in reverse order through parallel ideas. It's what's in the center that counts, the idea our writer wants his readers to pay attention to.

The Book of Ruth overflows with chiasms. In fact, the entire narrative is a giant chiasm even as individual sections and chapters contain smaller chiasmic structures.

THE BOOK OF RUTH

A - Naomi emptied by tragedy (Ruth 1:1-5)

B - Returning to Bethlehem without hope (Ruth 1:6-22)

C - Short-term provision and the harvest fields (Ruth 2:1-23)

D - Hope for present and future blessings through a redeemer (Ruth 2:18-3:5)

C - Long-term provision and the threshing floor (Ruth 3:1-18)

B - Hope fulfilled through Boaz at the gates of Bethlehem (Ruth 4:1-12)

A - Naomi filled and restored (Ruth 4:13-17)

WHAT THE WRITER
WANTS TO HIGHLIGHT



RUTH 2

A (vv. 1-3) Boaz introduced, a man from the clan of Elimelech

B (v. 4) The Lord be with you (Boaz' greeting)

C (vv. 5-7) Ruth asks for extra privileges

D (vv. 8-10) Boaz' favor: Ruth's question "why have I found favor?"

D (vv. 11-13) Boaz' answer: Ruth's hesed to Naomi

C (vv. 14-16) Boaz extends extra protection and provision

B (v. 17) Ruth receives Boaz' generosity - an abundance of blessing

A (vv. 18-23) Ruth reports to Naomi that she worked in Boaz' field. He is a kinsman-redeemer

WHAT THE WRITER
WANTS TO HIGHLIGHT



So our author has gone to a lot of trouble to point out several key ideas for us, most importantly that hope for our present and our future is found in a kinsman-redeemer. Boaz is the redeemer in the book of Ruth, but we know he points us to Jesus Christ our Redeemer who gives us hope for today and every other day.

How does knowing that you have a Redeemer give you hope for what you face today?



RESPOND

God is real. His Word is real. It matters in real life.

After each session, I hope you'll talk with God about what you've seen in the passage we explored together. I've provided some questions below to spark your thinking from this session.

When we first met Naomi in Ruth 1, we witnessed her tragedy and broken heart. Now, in Ruth 4, how do we see Naomi? How did this happen and who gets the credit?

What is God's role in Naomi's restoration? What has He looked to His people to do on His behalf?

When we first met Ruth, she was a widowed Moabitess determined to stay by Naomi's side. Her culture didn't put much value in her and she had few options. What do the women of Bethlehem think of her now (Ruth 4:15)? How did that happen?

We've seen Ruth take big risks and make huge sacrifices in this story. What's her reward now?

What do you think? Was all of Naomi and Ruth's suffering worth it in the end? What was God up to?



EXPEDITION WRAP-UP

Whew! What a journey! Now that our time together in this expedition is over, I hope you've gathered some treasures along the way, precious truths and valuable insights that you can bring out of Ruth's world and into ours. Take a bit of time now to jot them down so you can hang onto them for later.

What did you learn about God in the book of Ruth? Who is He and what's important to Him?

What did you see that made the biggest impression on you?

Where do you connect with Ruth's story on a personal level? Where do you see parallels between her world and your everyday life in this season?

What did you see in Ruth the Moabitess that you can apply to your current circumstances? Be as practical and specific as you can.

What did you learn from Boaz, and how can you apply it?

What did you learn from Naomi, and how does this make a difference in your life?

God's "hesed," His loving-kindness, took center stage in the book of Ruth, but not because God intervened with spectacular miracles. How did God's love, loyalty, and goodness show up in these four chapters?

THANK YOU FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF BEING YOUR EXPEDITION GUIDE!



JOURNAL

Renew



*He will renew your life and sustain you...
(Ruth 4:15a)*

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND RESOURCES

RECOMMENDED READING

[The Gospel of Ruth: Loving God Enough to Break the Rules by Carolyn Custis James](#) - This isn't the Ruth, the Naomi, or the Boaz we thought we knew. Carolyn Custis James has unearthed startling new insights from this well-worn story ... insights that have life-changing implications for us. *(This is an Amazon.com affiliate link, which means when you use this link to purchase the book, I get a small commission from the sale.)*

COMMENTARIES AND RESOURCES

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