

# Life Group Questions

March 31, 2019

## Ruth: The Threshing Floor

### *Ruth and Boaz at the Threshing Floor*

**3** Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, “My daughter, I need to seek some security for you, so that it may be well with you. <sup>2</sup> Now here is our kinsman Boaz, with whose young women you have been working. See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. <sup>3</sup> Now wash and anoint yourself, and put on your best clothes and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. <sup>4</sup> When he lies down, observe the place where he lies; then, go and uncover his feet and lie down; and he will tell you what to do.” <sup>5</sup> She said to her, “All that you tell me I will do.”

<sup>6</sup> So she went down to the threshing floor and did just as her mother-in-law had instructed her. <sup>7</sup> When Boaz had eaten and drunk, and he was in a contented mood, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain. Then she came stealthily and uncovered his feet, and lay down. <sup>8</sup> At midnight the man was startled, and turned over, and there, lying at his feet, was a woman! <sup>9</sup> He said, “Who are you?” And she answered, “I am Ruth, your servant; spread your cloak over your servant, for you are next-of-kin.” <sup>10</sup> He said, “May you be blessed by the Lord, my daughter; this last instance of your loyalty is better than the first; you have not gone after young men, whether poor or rich. <sup>11</sup> And now, my daughter, do not be afraid, I will do for you all that you ask, for all the assembly of my people know that you are a worthy woman. <sup>12</sup> But now, though it is true that I am a near kinsman, there is another kinsman more closely related than I. <sup>13</sup> Remain this night, and in the morning, if he will act as next-of-kin for you, good; let him do it. If he is not willing to act as next-of-kin for you, then, as the Lord lives, I will act as next-of-kin for you. Lie down until the morning.”

<sup>14</sup> So she lay at his feet until morning, but got up before one person could recognize another; for he said, “It must not be known that the woman came to the threshing floor.” <sup>15</sup> Then he said, “Bring the cloak you are wearing and hold it out.” So she held it, and he measured out six measures of barley, and put it on her back; then he went into the city. <sup>16</sup> She came to her mother-in-law, who said, “How did things go with you, my daughter?” Then she told her all that the man had done for her, <sup>17</sup> saying, “He gave me these six measures of barley, for he said, ‘Do not go back to your mother-in-law empty-handed.’” <sup>18</sup> She replied, “Wait, my daughter, until you learn how the matter turns out, for the man will not rest, but will settle the matter today.”

## LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

- 1. What does Naomi instruct Ruth to do in the beginning of chapter 3? Why does Naomi have her do this?**

2. From our readings over the past few weeks, how would you describe the character of Naomi? What about Ruth? How would you describe Boaz?

3. This week, we are reading the scene taking place at the threshing floor. During the day, the threshing floor was a lively place of work and interaction. At night, however, the threshing floor was often a dangerous place for women. What do you think was at stake for Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz?

4. What does Ruth seek at the threshing floor? How does Boaz respond?

5. Remember the description of Boaz in chapter 2:

Now Naomi had a kinsman of her husband, a man of great wealth, of the family of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz. (*Ruth 2:1*)

The Hebrew word for “wealth,” *hayil*, also means “worth.” In chapter 3, Ruth is called a “woman of worth.” In your opinion, why are both Ruth and Boaz called people of worth?

6. How does the passage end? What questions does this raise for you?

7. **Challenge:** As you have continued your spiritual practice over the past four weeks, have you noticed changes to the rest of your day? If so, what is different about the rhythms of your life? How do these practices look different today than they did at the start of the Lenten season?

**8. Finally, we will ask the communal questions:**

- **Where have you seen/felt God in the last week?**
- **Where are you seeking God?**