

## LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

April 7, 2019

### Ruth: Belonging

#### Ruth 4:1-10

##### *The Marriage of Boaz and Ruth*

4 No sooner had Boaz gone up to the gate and sat down there than the next-of-kin, of whom Boaz had spoken, came passing by. So Boaz said, "Come over, friend; sit down here." And he went over and sat down. 2 Then Boaz took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, "Sit down here"; so they sat down. 3 He then said to the next-of-kin, "Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, is selling the parcel of land that belonged to our kinsman Elimelech. 4 So I thought I would tell you of it, and say: Buy it in the presence of those sitting here, and in the presence of the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, redeem it; but if you will not, tell me, so that I may know; for there is no one prior to you to redeem it, and I come after you." So he said, "I will redeem it." 5 Then Boaz said, "The day you acquire the field from the hand of Naomi, you are also acquiring Ruth the Moabite, the widow of the dead man, to maintain the dead man's name on his inheritance." 6 At this, the next-of-kin said, "I cannot redeem it for myself without damaging my own inheritance. Take my right of redemption yourself, for I cannot redeem it."

7 Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging: to confirm a transaction, the one took off a sandal and gave it to the other; this was the manner of attesting in Israel. 8 So when the next-of-kin said to Boaz, "Acquire it for yourself," he took off his sandal. 9 Then Boaz said to the elders and all the people, "Today you are witnesses that I have acquired from the hand of Naomi all that belonged to Elimelech and all that belonged to Chilion and Mahlon. 10 I have also acquired Ruth the Moabite, the wife of Mahlon, to be my wife, to maintain the dead man's name on his inheritance, in order that the name of the dead may not be cut off from his kindred and from the gate of his native place; today you are witnesses."

### LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

1. **Last week, we read about the encounter on the threshing floor in chapter three. Boaz sends Ruth back to Naomi, and the chapter concludes with Naomi encouraging Ruth that "the man will not rest until the matter is finished." Why do you think Boaz rushed to settle Ruth's redemption?**
2. **Boaz makes two separate offers to the "next-of-kin." What are they? Why do you think he separates the two offers?**
3. **What is the next-of-kin's response to each offer?**

**4. Read the following passage from Deuteronomy 25:**

5 When brothers reside together, and one of them dies and has no son, the wife of the deceased shall not be married outside the family to a stranger. Her husband's brother shall go in to her, taking her in marriage, and performing the duty of a husband's brother to her, 6 and the firstborn whom she bears shall succeed to the name of the deceased brother, so that his name may not be blotted out of Israel. 7 But if the man has no desire to marry his brother's widow, then his brother's widow shall go up to the elders at the gate and say, "My husband's brother refuses to perpetuate his brother's name in Israel; he will not perform the duty of a husband's brother to me." (Deuteronomy 25: 5-7)

**What responsibilities are lined out in this passage from Deuteronomy? What are the implications for widows?**

**Who are the "widows" in our society today? What responsibilities do we have to provide security, safety, and provision for them?**

5. **In Ruth 4:7, there seems to be an *aside* in the text. What does this tell us about when Ruth was written?**
6. **Boaz makes a public announcement to the elders present that he intends to redeem the land of Naomi, and Ruth herself. What does this mean for Ruth and Naomi?**
7. **We read a few weeks ago from Exodus 6:2-6. There, God is identified as the redeemer of Israel. As the story of Ruth and Boaz has unfolded, what have we learned about the word "redeem"? What does it mean that God acts as a redeemer for Israel? What about for us?**
8. **Challenge: Since the beginning of Lent, we have been encouraged to practice a spiritual discipline each week. We have two weeks left of Lent before Easter Sunday. Have you been consistently practicing a discipline? What has been your experience?**

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

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