

JOURNEY

Life Group Discussion Questions – February 25, 2024

Part Seven: SHE be US: HE be HIM (Ruth 4:1-16)

SHE

Her Ethnic Circumstances:

DYSFUNCTIONAL relational background – Lot is the father of Moab through his oldest **DAUGHTER** Genesis 19

DISCRIMINATED racial background – Officially **EXCLUDED** from the **ASSEMBLY** of the **LORD** Deuteronomy 23

DEMONIC religious background – Seduced Israel to participate in **IMMORALITY** and **IDOLATRY**. Numbers 25, 1 Kings 11, 2 Kings 3, 2 Kings 16, Judges 3

Her Marital Circumstances:

DETERMINED rebellious **DISOBEDIENCE** – “Everyone did what was right, **IN THEIR OWN EYES!**” Book of Judges

DISFAVORED rung on the social ladder – She was unable to have children. She was a widow.

HE

His Ethical Circumstances

ACCEPTED the **RISK** of acquiring Ruth – His inheritance could be “marred.” His **NAME** could be **FORGOTTEN**.

APPRECIATED the **RUNG** – He had personal experience and could relate because of his mother, **RAHAB**.

ACTIVELY pursued **RELATIONSHIP** – He provided her with **FOOD** and both physical and emotional **PROTECTION**.

APPROPRIATED his **RIGHT** – He followed the **BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES** and **ENJOYED** the **CONSEQUENCES**.

AVENGED/REDEEMED RUTH – He replaced her LIFE of **LOSS** with a LIFE of **LEGACY**.

Ruth 3:12-13 *Now it is true I am a close relative; however, there is a relative closer than I. Remain this night, and when morning comes, if he will redeem you, good; let him redeem you. But if he does not wish to redeem you, then I will redeem you, as the LORD lives.”*

DISCOVER

1. With an overarching view, we can see that God, in His sovereignty, drew Ruth out of Moab so that she would come face-to-face with her (kinsman) redeemer. Share how Ruth’s story parallels or is analogous to your faith journey to Jesus.
2. In what ways are we like Ruth? In what ways was Boaz like Jesus? Make a list of the ways that Boaz is representative of Christ.
3. Define the term “next of kin.” In the US, can a spouse or adopted family member be legally considered next of kin? Discuss how this contrasts with the Hebrew kinsman (“goel”) or closest living male relative. In this sense, make sure to note “closeness” doesn’t mean “affinity for.”
4. Ruth benefitted from her relationship with Boaz. In what ways did Naomi also benefit? How about Boaz?

EXPLORE

1. Many societies live and act by what seems right in their own eyes. What are the predictable results of living-out this kind of morality? How is this a stubborn resistance to the order that God mandates? How can we, as followers of Christ, lovingly help those in our spheres of influence to see the futility in this relativity? (see Deuteronomy 12:7-9, Judges 21:25 and Proverbs 21:2-3)
2. Boaz accepted the possible consequences of redeeming Ruth. What was at stake? Have you ever taken a substantial risk based solely on the character of someone you knew? What was at stake for you?
3. In a sense, a kinsman-redeemer was someone who redeemed what was lost. This could be the other persons’ property, their freedom, or even their name/legacy. The kinsman might also be called upon to vindicate or to exact revenge on someone who may have killed their relative. (see Numbers 35:12, 19, 21, 24-25, 27) For the following verses, discuss how Jesus is uniquely qualified in meeting the requirements of Kinsman-Redeemer:
 - Hebrews 2:10-13
 - Hebrews 2:14
 - Hebrews 2:16-18
 - Hebrews 4:14-16
 - Hebrews 9:15

EXPERIENCE

1. Looking back over the account of Ruth, what verses might you offer as evidence that it was actually Boaz who initiated a scheme in pursuing Ruth? Compare and contrast this idea to the proclamation, “I accepted Christ as my Savior.”
2. It’s safe to say that Boaz had empathy for Ruth and was probably one of the reasons he was initially drawn to her. What was it in Boaz’s past that might have given him greater insight and understanding of Ruth’s history and current situation? How can we leverage our past experiences to edify someone, especially in a budding relationship with us? What are the pitfalls of “one upmanship” (“If you think that’s bad, let me tell you what happened to me!”)?

PRAY

Pray...Father in heaven, we give thanks to You for the redeeming work of Your Son on the Cross. It’s true that we were absolutely powerless in our sinful condition, dwelling in enemy territory. Yet You chose us to be Your next-of-kin as You adopted us as Your sons and daughters, bringing us into the Kingdom of Light. This grace overwhelms us. May we bring honor and glory to You, for Your Name’s sake. Amen.