

“There is a Redeemer”  
7. The Book of Ruth – Ruth 3

Purpose: the students will learn about Ruth’s arranged marriage

Recap: (Write “There is a Redeemer”- the title of this series, on the board) We are reading the book of Ruth in the Old Testament for Bible time. These Bible times are called “There is a Redeemer” because Ruth had a redeemer, and we have a redeemer. Who is our redeemer? (Jesus Christ) What does “redeem” mean? (to buy back)

Last week in Bible time what happened in our story? (Ruth was gleaning in a field. The field belonged to Boaz. Boaz gave Ruth lunch. Boaz gave Ruth extra barley. Naomi was very excited because Ruth got a large amount of food. Naomi was also excited because Boaz is a special relative, a kinsman-redeemer.)

Introduction: (this is all review, but that’s OK, it’s very important)

Last week we learned that Boaz was a special kind of relative. He was a kinsman-redeemer (write on board). He was the redeemer for the family. The kinsman-redeemer took care of poor people in the family. When the kinsman-redeemer’s brother died, the kinsman-redeemer might marry his brother’s wife. If a poor relative sold himself as a servant, the kinsman-redeemer might buy him back. Redeem him! If a poor man in the family had to sell his land, the kinsman-redeemer might buy it back. Redeem it! This keeps the land in the family.

The kinsman-redeemer was the closest male relative. If Japanese families had kinsman-redeemers, who would your kinsman-redeemer be? Who is your closest male relative?

Today’s story is very happy. In today’s story, Ruth will ask Boaz to marry her! At that time, it was OK for a woman to ask a man to marry her. But they had a special custom. Ruth asked Boaz to marry her in a way that we would think is unusual. But her way of asking was OK in her culture.

Question:

How did Ruth ask Boaz to marry her?

- What did she do? (she lifted his skirt and lay down by his feet)
- What did she say? (“cover me with your skirt, because you are a redeemer”)

Read Ruth 3

Answer the questions.

Revisit the story: Let’s look at the story again, more carefully.

1. What did Naomi want to find for Ruth? (a home. This means Naomi wanted to find a husband for Ruth.)
2. What was Boaz going to do that night? (winnow barley.)
3. What is “winnowing”? (It is throwing barley into the air over and over again. The barley is made of two parts, the seed and the chaff. The chaff is not food. The chaff is the hard part around the seed. Winnowing separates the seed and the chaff. When the farmer throws the barley up, the wind carries the chaff away. The seed is too heavy for the wind, and falls back on the floor. Boaz will keep all the seed, some for food and some to sell to make money.)
4. How did Ruth get ready to go to the threshing floor? (she washed, and put on a nice smelling oil and her best clothes)
5. Where was Boaz lying? (next to the seeds)
6. Then Ruth asked Boaz to marry her, in the very different way of Naomi’s culture.
7. Did Boaz want to marry Ruth? (yes)
8. Was there any problem? (yes. Boaz was not the closest kinsman-redeemer)
9. Look at verse 10. How was Ruth kind to Boaz? (she didn’t try to marry a young man, rich or poor. When we read this, we think that Boaz was an older man, much older than Ruth. Also, we think Ruth was still young and pretty. But Ruth was very willing to let her mother-in-law arrange a marriage for her.)
10. What did Boaz promise Ruth? (v. 13. If the other kinsman-redeemer did not want to marry Ruth, Boaz said he would marry Ruth.)
11. What gift did Boaz give Ruth? (a large amount of barley seeds)
12. Who are the people who know what Ruth did? (only Naomi and Boaz. It is a secret!)

Today’s story was romantic. Naomi tried to arrange a marriage for Ruth. Ruth was willing to marry the man her mother-in-law chose. Naomi tried to arrange a marriage with Boaz. Boaz wants to marry Ruth, but there is one other man who is a closer relative. What will happen? Will the other man marry Ruth? This was a very exciting night for Naomi and Ruth!

Do you have any questions or comments?

Easy English Notes from Wycliffe**Chapter 3**

**Verse 1** 'A home where you can rest' means a husband to be kind to Ruth.

**Verse 2** The \*threshing floor was in the open air. First, they \*threshed the \*barley or \*wheat. Then they threw it in the air. The evening wind would blow away the chaff. The chaff was the part of the plant that was round the \*grain. The \*grain would fall to the floor. This was 'to \*winnow' the \*barley or the \*wheat. They used the chaff to burn on their fires.

**Verse 3** Naomi told Ruth to make herself beautiful. **Verse 10** suggests that Ruth knew what Naomi wanted to happen!

**Verse 4** We think that this was how a woman asked a man to marry her.

**Verse 7** Boaz was probably a bit drunk. He was happy when he went to sleep.

**Verse 8** But he was frightened when he woke up. We do not know what woke him.

**Verse 9** Ruth told Boaz that he was a \*redeemer. Here, this meant that he was one of her husband's family. He was one of the men that ought to give help to her.

What she did suggested that this help should include marriage.

**Verse 10** 'You are more kind now' probably means this:

- Ruth was young and pretty and could marry anyone
- she agreed to obey the rule and marry someone in the family.

To Boaz this was 'more kind' if he loved her!

**Verse 12** But there was a nearer \*relation to Elimelech than Boaz was. Really, the other man should \*redeem Ruth. It was Elimelech's part of the field that he should \*redeem, but Boaz said that it also included Ruth.

**Verse 13** Boaz said that he would talk to the other man in the morning. If he said 'No!' then Boaz would buy the field and marry Ruth. 'As the \*LORD lives' is a way of saying that Boaz really meant what he said.

**Verse 14** The Jews did not believe in sex before marriage. So, Ruth went home early. It was still dark. Nobody would recognise her. Nobody would say that Boaz and Ruth had sex. We believe that they did not.

**Verse 15** A \*shawl covers a woman's shoulders. It goes over her dress. Boaz filled the \*shawl with \*barley. He lifted it on to her back. She carried it to Bethlehem. There Naomi was waiting for her.

**Verse 18** Naomi believed that Boaz would keep his promise.