

BEFORE THE SESSION:

- Look over the suggested questions to the right. Ask God to guide you to the ones that will work best for your group.
- Be prepared to get the discussion going in your group if they're not feeling it today.
- Don't feel like you have to know all there is to know about scripture. Use this week's study notes to prepare yourself. But, if something arises that you can't answer, tell your group, "That's a great question. I'll research that and get back with you." Then, email eddie.mosley@lifepointchurch.org for help.

THIS WEEK'S BIG IDEA

Redemption has always been a part of God's plan for our lives.

TO PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK:

Read about the last judge, Samuel and Israel's first king Saul in 1 Samuel.

AS YOU READ...

...Think about who in your life needs to hear about the things you're reading.

Choose one of the following questions to begin your time together as a group. If your group has been together longer, you may want to skip question 1 in favor of question 2.

1. **What is your favorite love story from books or film?**
2. **What do you think it means to be in love? What does it feel like? If married, describe your experience when you fell in love with your spouse.**

EXPLORE**(40 min.)**

Say something like, "Today we are learning about how Jesus is our kinsman-redeemer." Then guide your group through these questions.

1. **If you attended worship this week, what statement or experience stood out to you? What stood out during last week's reading?**

(Leader: Take some time to discuss any questions that may have arisen as your members read through this week's assigned reading.)

2. **Read Ruth 4 and retell the story in your own words.**
3. **Read Leviticus 25:25 and Deuteronomy 25:5-6. According to these laws, how much of Ruth's property goes to the kinsman-redeemer? How much to her son? How might this account for the kinsman-redeemer's reluctance to marry Ruth in verse 6?**
4. **What do you think Boaz's motives were in seeking to be the kinsman-redeemer?**
5. **How does Jesus Christ, like Boaz, function as a "kinsman-redeemer" for us?**
6. **What made Obed, Ruth and Boaz's son, so special?**
7. **The book of Ruth is a wonderful story of God's providence or divine direction. Where have you seen God providentially at work in your life? Where do you need to trust his providence now?**

TRANSFORM**(10 min.)**

Say something like, "Today we've seen how God not only redeems us but has a plan for us as well." Then wrap up your time by asking the following question and praying together.

8. **What did you learn about God from our discussion? About people? What will you take away?**

This Week's Study Notes:

What Was a Kinsman Redeemer?

Simply, a kinsman redeemer, in Old Testament days, was a relative who pays a debt that the person is unable to pay. When Ruth's husband died Boaz became her kinsman redeemer as he took her as his own wife. Jesus is called our kinsman redeemer, because He came to the earth in the form of a man (thus "related" to us) & paid the price for our debt of sin, which we could not pay. God's justice requires that a sinner be punished by death for their sins. (Romans 3:23).

Ruth 4:18-22

This genealogy stands as a reminder that God's plan reaches beyond generations. From Naomi's sorrow came a grandchild who established the family line of both King David and then Jesus, the Messiah.

Scripture Notes

Deuteronomy 25:5-6

Survival of the family was essential to the governing of land, so these practices, which became foundational elements of the Israelite economy under Moses, were instituted to provide family heirs.

Ruth 4:5

This was the heart of the law of the family redeemer. While the Law provided for the family to maintain their inheritance and for a widow to be cared for, the crux was that a man's legacy should not be taken away from him even in death. Ruth was honoring and maintaining Mahlon's (her dead husband, Naomi's son) legacy.

Ruth 4:6

If Naomi had been the only widow involved, she would not have endangered this man's estate. She was past childbearing years. Ruth, on the other hand, could bear sons who would receive part of Ruth's estate, but also the family redeemer's estate after his death. Ruth's Moabite heritage may have also been a factor in his hesitation.

Leader Tips

AS YOU READ THIS WEEK...

- Think about and pray for each member of your small group.
- Think through the following questions:
 1. Who does God bring to mind as I read these verses? Why?
 2. What needs to change in my own life as a result of what I'm reading?
 3. Whom do I need to tell about these verses?

FOR ADDITIONAL STUDY WE RECOMMEND...

- Bible Commentary: Bible.org
- Bible Commentary: DesiringGod.org
- Pronouncing Biblical Words: Netministries.org/Bbasics/bwords.htm

* Scripture Notes adapted from and used by permission of Serendipity House Publishing, 1 LifeWay Plaza, Nashville, Tennessee

