

| <p><b>Bible Text</b><br/>New International Version</p>   | <p><b>Who are the people involved and what is the situation?</b></p> | <p><b>What traits of God are displayed in this story?<br/>What are the traits of the people?</b></p> | <p><b>In what ways do you see yourself in this story?<br/>How is God inviting you to respond?</b></p> |
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| <p><b>Ruth 3:1-18</b><br/><b>Ruth and Boaz at the Threshing Floor</b></p> <p><b>3</b> One day Ruth’s mother-in-law Naomi said to her, “My daughter, I must find a home<sup>[a]</sup> for you, where you will be well provided for. <b>2</b> Now Boaz, with whose women you have worked, is a relative of ours. Tonight he will be winnowing barley on the threshing floor. <b>3</b> Wash, put on perfume, and get dressed in your best clothes. Then go down to the threshing floor, but don’t let him know you are there until he has finished eating and drinking. <b>4</b> When he lies down, note the place where he is lying. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down. He will tell you what to do.”</p> <p><b>5</b> “I will do whatever you say,” Ruth answered. <b>6</b> So she went down to the threshing floor and did everything her mother-in-law told her to do.</p> <p><b>7</b> When Boaz had finished eating and drinking and was in good spirits, he went over to lie down at the far end of the grain pile. Ruth approached quietly, uncovered his feet and lay down. <b>8</b> In the middle of the night something startled the man; he turned—and there was a woman lying at his feet!</p> <p><b>9</b> “Who are you?” he asked.<br/>“I am your servant Ruth,” she said. “Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a guardian-redeemer<sup>[b]</sup> of our family.” <i>(continued)</i></p> <p>a. Ruth 3:1 - Hebrew <i>find rest</i> (see 1:9).<br/>b. Ruth 3:9 - The Hebrew word for <i>guardian-redeemer</i> is a legal term for one who has the obligation to redeem a relative in serious difficulty (see Lev. 25:25-55); also in verses 12 and 13.</p> |  |  |   |

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| <p><b>Ruth 3:1-18 - continued</b></p> <p><sup>10</sup> “The LORD bless you, my daughter,” he replied. “This kindness is greater than that which you showed earlier: You have not run after the younger men, whether rich or poor. <sup>11</sup> And now, my daughter, don’t be afraid. I will do for you all you ask. All the people of my town know that you are a woman of noble character. <sup>12</sup> Although it is true that I am a guardian-redeemer of our family, there is another who is more closely related than I. <sup>13</sup> Stay here for the night, and in the morning if he wants to do his duty as your guardian-redeemer, good; let him redeem you. But if he is not willing, as surely as the LORD lives I will do it. Lie here until morning.”</p> <p><sup>14</sup> So she lay at his feet until morning, but got up before anyone could be recognized; and he said, “No one must know that a woman came to the threshing floor.”</p> <p><sup>15</sup> He also said, “Bring me the shawl you are wearing and hold it out.” When she did so, he poured into it six measures of barley and placed the bundle on her. Then he<sup>c</sup> went back to town.</p> <p><sup>16</sup> When Ruth came to her mother-in-law, Naomi asked, “How did it go, my daughter?”</p> <p>Then she told her everything Boaz had done for her <sup>17</sup> and added, “He gave me these six measures of barley, saying, ‘Don’t go back to your mother-in-law empty-handed.’”</p> <p><sup>18</sup> Then Naomi said, “Wait, my daughter, until you find out what happens. For the man will not rest until the matter is settled today.”</p> <p>c. Ruth 3:15 - Most Hebrew manuscripts; many Hebrew manuscripts, Vulgate and Syriac <i>she</i>.</p> |  |   |  |

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| <p><b>Ruth 4:1-22</b><br/><b>Boaz Marries Ruth</b></p> <p>4 Meanwhile Boaz went up to the town gate and sat down there just as the guardian-redeemer<sup>d</sup> he had mentioned came along. Boaz said, “Come over here, my friend, and sit down.” So he went over and sat down.</p> <p>2 Boaz took ten of the elders of the town and said, “Sit here,” and they did so. 3 Then he said to the guardian-redeemer, “Naomi, who has come back from Moab, is selling the piece of land that belonged to our relative Elimelek. 4 I thought I should bring the matter to your attention and suggest that you buy it in the presence of these seated here and in the presence of the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, do so. But if you<sup>e</sup> will not, tell me, so I will know. For no one has the right to do it except you, and I am next in line.”</p> <p>“I will redeem it,” he said.</p> <p>5 Then Boaz said, “On the day you buy the land from Naomi, you also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the<sup>f</sup> dead man’s widow, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property.” <i>(continued)</i></p> <p>d. Ruth 4:1 - The Hebrew word for <i>guardian-redeemer</i> is a legal term for one who has the obligation to redeem a relative in serious difficulty (see Lev. 25:25-55) ; also in verses 3, 6, 8 and 14.</p> <p>e. Ruth 4:4 - Many Hebrew manuscripts, Septuagint, Vulgate and Syriac; most Hebrew manuscripts <i>he</i></p> <p>f. Ruth 4:5 - ulgate and Syriac; Hebrew (see also Septuagint) <i>Naomi and from Ruth the Moabite, you acquire the</i></p> |  |  |   |

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| <p><b>Ruth 4:1-22 - <i>continued</i></b></p> <p><sup>6</sup> At this, the guardian-redeemer said, "Then I cannot redeem it because I might endanger my own estate. You redeem it yourself. I cannot do it."</p> <p><sup>7</sup> (Now in earlier times in Israel, for the redemption and transfer of property to become final, one party took off his sandal and gave it to the other. This was the method of legalizing transactions in Israel.)</p> <p><sup>8</sup> So the guardian-redeemer said to Boaz, "Buy it yourself." And he removed his sandal.</p> <p><sup>9</sup> Then Boaz announced to the elders and all the people, "Today you are witnesses that I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelek, Kilion and Mahlon. <sup>10</sup>I have also acquired Ruth the Moabite, Mahlon's widow, as my wife, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property, so that his name will not disappear from among his family or from his hometown. Today you are witnesses!"</p> <p><sup>11</sup> Then the elders and all the people at the gate said, "We are witnesses. May the LORD make the woman who is coming into your home like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the family of Israel. May you have standing in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem. <sup>12</sup>Through the offspring the LORD gives you by this young woman, may your family be like that of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah." (<i>continued</i>)</p> |  |   |  |

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| <p><b>Ruth 4:1-22 - continued</b></p> <p><b>Naomi Gains a Son</b></p> <p><sup>13</sup> So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When he made love to her, the LORD enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son. <sup>14</sup> The women said to Naomi: "Praise be to the LORD, who this day has not left you without a guardian-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel! <sup>15</sup> He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. For your daughter-in-law, who loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has given him birth."</p> <p><sup>16</sup> Then Naomi took the child in her arms and cared for him. <sup>17</sup> The women living there said, "Naomi has a son!" And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.</p> <p><b>The Genealogy of David</b></p> <p><sup>18</sup> This, then, is the family line of Perez:<br/>Perez was the father of Hezron,<br/><sup>19</sup> Hezron the father of Ram,<br/>Ram the father of Amminadab,<br/><sup>20</sup> Amminadab the father of Nahshon,<br/>Nahshon the father of Salmon,<sup>g</sup><br/><sup>21</sup> Salmon the father of Boaz,<br/>Boaz the father of Obed,<br/><sup>22</sup> Obed the father of Jesse,<br/>and Jesse the father of David.</p> <p>g. Ruth 4:20 – A few Hebrew manuscripts, some Septuagint manuscripts and Vulgate (see also verse 21 and Septuagint of 1 Chron. 2:11); most Hebrew manuscripts <i>Salma</i>.</p> |  |   |  |

**Reflections**

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Have you had a mother-figure or spiritual mentor whose advice you followed? What did you learn from them?

Boaz was a God-fearing man who put the needs of Ruth and Naomi above convenience and custom. Think of a time you had to choose between convenience and integrity during a challenging situation. Which did you choose and why? What was the outcome?



