

Ruth 3:1 – 15

English Standard Version (ESV)

1 So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked and
 2 said, “The man's name with whom I worked today is Boaz.”
 3 ²⁰ And Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, “May he be blessed
 4 by the LORD, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or
 5 the dead!” Naomi also said to her, “The man is a close
 6 relative of ours, one of our redeemers.”

7 ...

8 ^{3:1} Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, “My daughter,
 9 should I not seek rest for you, that it may be well with you?
 10 ² Is not Boaz our relative, with whose young women you
 11 were? See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing
 12 floor. ³ Wash therefore and anoint yourself, and put on your
 13 cloak and go down to the threshing floor, but do not make
 14 yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and
 15 drinking. ⁴ But when he lies down, observe the place where he
 16 lies. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down, and he will
 17 tell you what to do.” ⁵ And she replied, “All that you say I will
 18 do.”

19 ⁶ So she went down to the threshing floor and did just as her
 20 mother-in-law had commanded her. ⁷ And when Boaz had
 21 eaten and drunk, and his heart was merry, he went to lie down
 22 at the end of the heap of grain. Then she came softly and
 23 uncovered his feet and lay down. ⁸ At midnight the man was
 24 startled and turned over, and behold, a woman lay at his feet!
 25 ⁹ He said, “Who are you?” And she answered, “I am Ruth,
 26 your servant. Spread your wings over your servant, for you
 27 are a redeemer.”

28 ¹⁰ And he said, “May you be blessed by the LORD, my
 29 daughter. You have made this last kindness greater than the
 30 first in that you have not gone after young men, whether poor
 31 or rich. ¹¹ And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for
 32 you all that you ask, for all my fellow townsmen know that
 33 you are a worthy woman. ¹² And now it is true that I am a
 34 redeemer. Yet there is a redeemer nearer than I. ¹³ Remain
 35 tonight, and in the morning, if he will redeem you, good; let
 36 him do it. But if he is not willing to redeem you, then, as the
 37 LORD lives, I will redeem you. Lie down until the morning.”

38 ¹⁴ So she lay at his feet until the morning, but arose before
 39 one could recognize another. And he said, “Let it not be
 40 known that the woman came to the threshing floor.” ¹⁵ And
 41 he said, “Bring the garment you are wearing and hold it
 42 out.” So she held it, and he measured out six measures of
 43 barley and put it on her. Then she went into the city.

Observation (What does it say?):

Consider the observation questions on the back of this page. What do you notice in this passage?

- Underline the things that Naomi did or said (v.1-5).
- Underline the things that Ruth did or said (v.6-9)
- Underline the things that Boaz did or said (v.10-15)
- What other observations do you find?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

After observing the passage:

- From last week's passage (2:20): “whose kindness...” – is that referring to the kindness of Boaz, or the kindness of the LORD? What difference would that make to your understanding of the passage?

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- How would you summarize Naomi's actions and words?
 - How would you summarize Ruth's actions and words?
 - How would you summarize Boaz's actions and words?
 - What other questions come to mind as you read?

Application (What does it mean for me?):

- Are there examples in your life where your recognition of what God is doing has affected how you impact the lives of those around you?

Additional questions for thought and discussion:

- Compare Naomi’s reaction in 2:20 (May he be blessed by the LORD, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead!) with her earlier attitude in 1:13, 20-21 (the hand of the LORD has gone out against me).
- “What do a God-saturated man, a God-dependent young woman, and a God-exalting older woman do when they are filled with hope in the sovereign goodness of God?” John Piper, *A Sweet & Bitter Providence*, p. 80.

Observation
(What does it say?)

What facts do you *observe* about the passage that help bring out the writer’s thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose (“in order that...”)?
- Are there conclusions (“Therefore...”)?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?

Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

- What would be a good “headline” for the passage?

Interpretation
(What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you *interpret* the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer’s thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

Application
(What does it mean for me?)

What is the impact on your life? What *application* does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

**Read nothing into the Scriptures, but draw everything from them, and suffer nothing to remain hidden that is really in them.
J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)**