

Ruth 3:16 – 4:10

English Standard Version (ESV)

1 ¹⁶ And when she came to her mother-in-law, she said, “How
2 did you fare, my daughter?” Then she told her all that the man
3 had done for her, ¹⁷ saying, “These six measures of barley he
4 gave to me, for he said to me, ‘You must not go back empty-
5 handed to your mother-in-law.’” ¹⁸ She replied, “Wait, my
6 daughter, until you learn how the matter turns out, for the man
7 will not rest but will settle the matter today.”

8 **4** Now Boaz had gone 1 up to the gate and sat 2 down there. And
9 behold, the redeemer, of whom Boaz had spoken, came by. So
10 Boaz said, “Turn aside, friend; sit down here.” And he turned
11 aside and sat down. ² And he took ten men of the elders of the
12 city and said, “Sit down here.” So they sat down. ³ Then he
13 said to the redeemer, “Naomi, who has come back from the
14 country of Moab, is selling the parcel of land that belonged to
15 our relative Elimelech. ⁴ So I thought I would tell you of it and
16 say, ‘Buy it in the presence of those sitting here and in the
17 presence of the elders of my people.’ If you will redeem it,
18 redeem it. But if you will not, tell me, that I may know, for
19 there is no one besides you to redeem it, and I come after
20 you.” And he said, “I will redeem it.” ⁵ Then Boaz said, “The
21 day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you also
22 acquire Ruth the Moabite, the widow of the dead, in order to
23 perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance.” ⁶ Then the
24 redeemer said, “I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I impair my
25 own inheritance. Take my right of redemption yourself, for I
26 cannot redeem it.”

27 ⁷ Now this was the custom in former times in Israel
28 concerning redeeming and exchanging: to confirm a
29 transaction, the one drew off his sandal and gave it to the
30 other, and this was the manner of attesting in Israel. ⁸ So when
31 the redeemer said to Boaz, “Buy it for yourself,” he drew off
32 his sandal. ⁹ Then Boaz said to the elders and all the people,
33 “You are witnesses this day that I have bought from the hand
34 of Naomi all that belonged to Elimelech and all that belonged
35 to Chilion and to Mahlon. ¹⁰ Also Ruth the Moabite, the
36 widow of Mahlon, I have bought to be my wife, to perpetuate
37 the name of the dead in his inheritance, that the name of the
38 dead may not be cut off from among his brothers and from the
39 gate of his native place. You are witnesses this day.”

Observation (What does it say?):

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

- *Number all the steps in the process that Boaz and the “other redeemer” went through to “settle the matter today” as Naomi said to Ruth.*
- *Other observations?*

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

After observing the passage:

- *How would you describe the process Boaz went through?*
- *Why do you think Boaz did things this way?*
- *Why do you think the writer thought it important to record all this detail?*
- *How would you describe Boaz’s part in the transaction?*
- *How would you describe the other redeemer’s part in the transaction?*
- *What questions come to mind as you read?*
- *How would you title this passage?*

Application (What does it mean for me?):

- *What possible application might this passage have for you today?*

Additional questions for thought and discussion:

For more suggested methods of study: <http://www.goodnotsafe.com/methodical-bible-study/>

For examples of inductive studies: <http://www.goodnotsafe.com/inductive-bible-study-examples-2/>

Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

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?
- 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)**

For a much more detailed description of the methodology, see Robert A. Traina, *Methodical Bible Study*. Wilmore, Kentucky: Asbury Theological Seminary, 1952.

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