

Sunday school lesson: Advent; Ruth 3-4

Today's HOPE (main point): Jesus is our Kinsman Redeemer!

We have been studying the book of Ruth for this Advent season. Just like the story of Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus, this is a story of a redeemer from Bethlehem.

Can anyone tell me something they remember about the story of Naomi and Ruth? (take answers...refresh their memories if needed)

We've read the first two chapters of Ruth. Last week we left off with Ruth working in the fields belonging to Boaz, who just happened to be a relative of Naomi's. Boaz has also shown great kindness to Ruth--making sure she's protected and has more than enough food for herself and Naomi.

There are two chapters left, so I'm going to do a little summarizing instead of having us read through every verse.

Let's see what the last verse of Ruth 2 said:

Ruth 2:23 So Ruth stayed close to the women of Boaz to glean until the barley and wheat harvests were finished. And she lived with her mother-in-law.

So this tells us that Ruth stayed a while. She works in Boaz's fields until the harvest is finished.



The harvest time is over. Now what will Ruth and Naomi do for work and food?

So Naomi decides it's time to take action on the fact that Boaz is their kinsman redeemer. Look at Ruth 3:1...

Ruth 3:1 One day Ruth's mother-in-law Naomi said to her, "My daughter, I must find a home for you, where you will be well provided for.

Naomi then instructs Ruth to go to Boaz in the night while he's on the threshing floor.

***The threshing floor is a significant symbol in the Bible, which is mentioned both in the Old Testament and in the New Testament. In the Old Testament, the threshing floor is used in the daily agricultural lives of men.*

It is a flat surface, usually smooth, which is used during the harvest of grains. This space was used before equipment and machinery was invented. It was used to separate the grains from the chaff by manual separation. Usually, the animals crush and break the sheaves of the grains on the trashing floor or people manually use sticks to break the sheaves apart. As a result, the grains would be separated from the husks.

The final separation would be done by tossing the grains upon the wind, thereby, finally separating those still with husk and those already edible. The process is called winnowing.

Although the threshing floor is an ancient way of processing agricultural produce, it is still very significant in our lives as Christians today.

Naomi instructs Ruth to make a pretty bold move; she tells her to uncover Boaz's feet and to lie down there at his feet. Now this may seem strange to us, but basically in their culture, it was the same as a marriage proposal. This is a symbolic action- Ruth uncovers his feet to ask him if he will cover her, if he will take on his duty as kinsman redeemer and rescue them.

Let's see what Ruth says to him when he finds her at his feet:

Ruth 3:9 "I am your servant Ruth," she said. "Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a kinsman redeemer of our family."

We've talked about the guardian redeemer, or as it's called in some translations, the kinsman redeemer. Now let's look at the Old Testament law about the kinsman redeemer's obligations.

Leviticus 25:25 "If one of your fellow Israelites becomes poor and sells some of their property, their nearest relative is to come and redeem what they have sold."

There are 3 requirements of being a kinsman-redeemer. These are important. I want you to listen for them as we keep reading. The first requirement is that you had to be a relative. You had to be kin to the person who was in trouble and needed help. Boaz meets that requirement.

The second requirement is to be a kinsman redeemer is that you have to be willing. So Ruth asks Boaz if he will take on the responsibility of being her kinsman redeemer. Let's see what Boaz says:

Ruth 3:11-12 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. 12 Although it is true that I am a guardian-redeemer of our family, there is another who is more closely related than I.

Is Boaz willing? yes

Boaz is willing, but he knows there is someone who is more closely related than he is and so the opportunity must go to him first. Again we see that Boaz is a man of good standing, a man of honor.

The next day, Boaz goes to the city gates. This is where all the legal business takes place. So let's see what happens:

Ruth 4:1 Meanwhile Boaz went up to the town gate and sat down there just as the kinsman-redeemer he had mentioned came along. Boaz said, "Come over here, my friend, and sit down." So he went over and sat down. **2** Boaz took ten of the elders of the town and said, "Sit here," and they did so. **3** Then he said to the kinsman-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 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." "I will redeem it," he said. **5** Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the land from Naomi, you also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the dead man's widow, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property."

This is a bit of extra news the kinsman-redeemer had not expected. If he buys the land, he will also have the duty of marrying Ruth and providing children so that the land can stay in the family. That's a lot of responsibility to take on--land, two women to provide for, and a marriage and children! Not to mention the fact that Ruth was a Moabite, remember? She's not from Israel. She's a foreigner.

Ruth 4:6 At this, the kinsman-redeemer said, “Then I cannot redeem it because I might endanger my own estate. You redeem it yourself. I cannot do it.”

This man is honest; he says he does not want to be the kinsman-redeemer. It will endanger his own estate. That's likely because not only will buying the land be expensive, but the children he would have with Ruth would inherit that land. And his reputation might also be at stake because Ruth is a Moabite.

You have to be willing to be the kinsman redeemer, which this man is not, and you have to have the means to be able to follow through. Willingness alone was not enough if you couldn't actually pay the full price. There was no partial redemption. So what about Boaz? Is he able to pay the full price?

Ruth 4:9-11 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. 10 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!” 11 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.”

So Boaz marries Ruth and they have a son. Do you remember what Naomi said about herself when she and Ruth returned to Bethlehem? *she was bitter, she felt empty, she felt like God has stricken her*

Oh, how her life has changed! Look at how the whole town rejoices with Naomi:

Ruth 4:14-17 The women said to Naomi: "Praise be to the Lord, who this day has not left you without a kinsman-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel! 15 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."

16 Then Naomi took the child in her arms and cared for him. 17 The women living there said, "Naomi has a son!" And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

Wow! Isn't that amazing? Ruth and Naomi were alone, vulnerable, unprotected...they had no idea how they would make it when they returned to Bethlehem. And look at how God blessed them!

Notice, who is Ruth and Boaz's son? *Obed, the father of Jesse, the father of David*

So means that Ruth and Boaz are in the family tree of whom? *Jesus*

Let's go back and review what it takes to be a kinsman redeemer. First, the kinsman redeemer has to be kin- just like the word implies. Boaz was kin to Naomi. Is Jesus kin to us? *Yes!*

Since sin entered the world through a man, it required another man to pay the price for that sin. That's why it was necessary for God to send His Son Jesus to become a man.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14 “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth”

Jesus became just like me and you so He could redeem us!

The next thing necessary to be a kinsman redeemer was that you had to be willing. Boaz was willing. So was Jesus:

Philippians 2:5-8 “In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death — even death on a cross!”

John 10:18 “No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father”

A redeemer has to be kin, a redeemer has to be willing, and a redeemer has to be able to pay the full price. Boaz was able to pay the full price. What about Jesus?

Romans 5:18-19 Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

Titus 2:14 He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds.

Jesus is our kinsman redeemer! We were lost and He found us, bought us, and restored us to the Father.

On the third week of Advent, we light the candle of JOY.

*Light the advent candles; electric**

The first week was the candle of Hope, the second week was the candle of Love, and this week we are combining the third and fourth weeks of Advent. So we light the candle of JOY and the candle of PEACE today.

Jesus came to earth as our kinsman redeemer. Because of His sacrifice on the cross, we can have HOPE, LOVE, JOY, and PEACE, not just at Christmas, but all year long.

Let's read our Advent prayer together again:

God of hope, who brought love into this world, be the love that dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought peace into this world, be the peace that dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought joy into this world, be the joy that dwells between us.

God of hope, the rock we stand upon, be the center, the focus of our lives always, and particularly this Advent time.

Amen.

Resources used for this lesson:

<https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/bible-study/the-beautiful-truth-of-how-christ-is-our-kinsman-redeemer.html>

Finding Hope Under Bethlehem Skies, by Robin Ham

*You will also need electric Advent candles and wreath (optional).

Faithful Friends

Sunday school lesson: Advent; Ruth 3-4



Today's HOPE (main point): Jesus is our Kinsman Redeemer!

Ruth 2:23 So Ruth stayed close to the women of Boaz to glean until the barley and wheat harvests were finished. And she lived with her mother-in-law.

Ruth 3:1 One day Ruth's mother-in-law Naomi said to her, "My daughter, I must find a home for you, where you will be well provided for.

Ruth 3:9 "I am your servant Ruth," she said. "Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a kinsman redeemer of our family."

Leviticus 25:25 "If one of your fellow Israelites becomes poor and sells some of their property, their nearest relative is to come and redeem what they have sold.

Ruth 3:11-12 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. 12 Although it is true that I am a kinsman redeemer of our family, there is another who is more closely related than I.

A Kinsman Redeemer must be:

- ✓ **Kin/Related**
- ✓ **Willing**
- ✓ **Able to redeem and pay full price**

Jesus is all of these!
He became a man
like us and He is
willing and able to
redeem!

Ruth 4:1 Meanwhile Boaz went up to the town gate and sat down there just as the kinsman-redeemer he had mentioned came along. Boaz said, "Come over here, my friend, and sit down." So he went over and sat down. **2** Boaz took ten of the elders of the town and said, "Sit here," and they did so. **3** Then he said to the kinsman-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 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." "I will redeem it," he said. **5** Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the land from Naomi, you also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the dead man's widow, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property."

Ruth 4:6 At this, the kinsman-redeemer said, "Then I cannot redeem it because I might endanger my own estate. You redeem it yourself. I cannot do it."

Ruth 4:9-11 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. **10** 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!" **11** 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."

Ruth 4:14-17 The women said to Naomi: "Praise be to the Lord, who this day has not left you without a kinsman-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel! **15** 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."

16 Then Naomi took the child in her arms and cared for him. **17** The women living there said, “Naomi has a son!” And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

Advent Prayer:

God of hope, who brought love into this world,
be the love that dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought peace into this
world, be the peace that dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought joy into this world,
be the joy that dwells between us.

God of hope, the rock we stand upon, be the
center, the focus of our lives always, and
particularly this Advent time.

Amen.



Ruth Chapters 3-4

Look for words from Ruth chapters 3 and 4.

P C I H V N I E U N E J G I M F G H Y S
 U C F F O Z A X G C X A Z W T V A C K D
 A V U Q C E E H G N V A W B O R C N R I
 L A U A N L X U S J I G K K V O Q P X K
 M J M Q P O R I W T N H V E E D W E X I
 I G X F B S B F W Y H D S C P L P J K V
 H C W E Q U S L U I C T V E Z M T R Y L
 B G S N P H D Y E X A C C M R N O E X W
 J G J A H J C P P I E G N U S H F M D B
 R U M O O O Q Z X L B N X H I B T E J O
 H L N M X N V O Y X A C P T D P B E F O
 D F E I D J E S S E H Y B F Q O U D P O
 K C D Y A Q B D L P E A A A F J N E N A
 V M C S V R P G X T P M P Z R O D R F Q
 V Z Y G D W G C C R I S W H V L E G G L
 H S N Q M I K N V L F J Y O R X E G K R
 E L C P A Q R Z Y K N R D A V I D Y Z G
 V D X X D C C V F N I N O R C C V I J T
 Q U F R U T H H S O N E M R P O L Z U K
 U M O A D N P T B U G G K Z E P E F N W

REDEEMER
 THRESHING
 FAMILY
 JESSE
 NOBLE

GLEAN
 GRAIN
 SON
 DAVID
 RUTH

HARVEST
 BARLEY
 OBED
 NAOMI