

## Small Group Discussion Questions

### *Heaven on Earth: the Book of Ruth*

*These questions are designed to invite group reflection on today's Bible passage and life application of the themes introduced in today's sermon.*

#### **Week 5**

#### Ruth 3:1-13

1. How do you define true love?
2. Can you think of a relationship in which you were so confident of the other person's care for you that you: a. Could be truly yourself without any pretense or insecurity; b. Could ask that person anything without fear of being judged or rejected?  
If you haven't had such a relationship, imagine what it might be like to have one. If you feel comfortable doing so, share either the positive effects of having had such a relationship; or some of the consequences of not having one.
3. In Ruth 2, Naomi and Ruth have a home and a livelihood (through Ruth's gleaning). In what ways is their life still insecure? What practical changes to their life and relationships might translate into a more lasting security? Is it realistic for them to expect such changes? What are some barriers to those possible life changes?
4. Put yourself in Ruth and Naomi's place. Beyond merely gaining more security, what are some things Naomi and Ruth might dream of getting some day? How likely is it that those dreams might come true?
5. Naomi identifies Boaz as her family's "guardian-redeemer" (Hebrew: *go'el*). What are the potential responsibilities of this figure, according to God's law?
6. Read Ruth 3:12-13. Is Boaz the only potential redeemer in this situation?
7. Naomi's redeemers have not initiated a conversation with her regarding the redemption of her land and family name. What are some reasons a redeemer might avoid his responsibility? In this instance, who is left with the task of instigating the (God-mandated) conversation about redemption?
8. Naomi proposes a plan that will force the redemption conversation to take place. Which elements of this plan are unconventional? Which are scandalous? What could go wrong?
9. What might give Ruth the confidence to propose to Boaz?
10. In what ways does the "uncovered" nature of Ruth approach to Boaz mirror the "uncovered" nature of our relationship with God? What has God done to allow us to be unguarded with Him?
11. Boaz responds to Ruth's proposal with surprise and delight. How do you suppose God responds when we offer our hearts to Him?
12. Read Hebrews 4:14-16. How are we to approach God? What makes this possible?

*Pray:* Imagine God unguarded in the person of Jesus Christ and approach Him without reservation or pretense; ask God, by His Spirit, to reassure you of His love and rekindle your love for Him.