

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 6

Ruth 4:1-10

1. How do you feel about rules? Do you tend to think of rules as a help or a hindrance? What do you think is the main purpose of God's rules?
2. In Ruth 3, Ruth asked Boaz to be her *go'el* – her “guardian redeemer”. When Boaz said “Yes”, what was he agreeing to? Now in Ruth 4, we learn there is another potential redeemer. What could this mean for Ruth and Boaz?
3. What do we learn about Boaz's character in Ruth 1-3? How is his conduct in Ruth 4 consistent with what we already know? Does it appear as though Naomi's other male relative shares Boaz's character? What is the evidence?
4. When the other relative opts not to redeem Naomi, Ruth and their property, what gesture finalizes his decision? What explanation does Ruth 4:7 provide?
5. Read Deuteronomy 25:7-10. Does this portray the “removal of the sandal” differently than Ruth 4? Both Ruth 4 and Deuteronomy 25 make it clear that, according to the letter of God's law, refusing to serve as a redeemer is *permissible*. Is this refusal portrayed as *honorable*? Is it possible to operate within the boundaries of God's law and yet fail to honor God?
6. Read Deuteronomy 10:17-18. What does God's law require? In the first two chapters of Ruth, has Boaz already fulfilled these requirements? What additional benefit might Boaz provide Naomi and Ruth if he serves as their redeemer? In this act of redemption, what do we learn about the intent of God's law? What do we learn about God's ultimate plan of salvation?
7. When we contrast Boaz and the nameless male relative, what do we learn about what it means to truly live as the people of God? What are some concrete, immediate ways you might play the role of a redeemer in your community, city, nation or world?

Pray: Thank the Lord Jesus for redeeming us by reconciling us to God and restoring us to full personhood. Ask the Lord to guide you and equip you to be an agent of His redemption for others.