



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Speaker: Chris Royalty // Sunday: October 23, 2022

- 1) Begin your time by briefly praying and asking the Holy Spirit to help you as you discuss and study.
- 2) Read Ruth 3:1-18 together.
- 3) What stuck out to you as you read? Is there anything you don't understand? Is there anything you'd like to discuss?
- 4) Notice the word "rest" in Ruth 3:1, and recall the context of the same word in Ruth 1:9. How does the use of this word affect our understanding of Ruth 3?
- 5) Naomi's plan for Ruth to visit Boaz secretly in the night is presented matter-of-factly and accepted by Ruth with no commentary—but it was an unorthodox plan! What various possible ways of interpreting her plan might you imagine?
- 6) The scene, in Ruth 3:6–8, begins dark and full of tension: Ruth is obviously putting herself (and Naomi) at great risk in a number of ways. What have we read so far in this chapter and in this book that might invite us to trust Boaz in this moment of tension?
- 7) By so asking for his protection as a "redeemer," Ruth is asking Boaz to redeem her along with Elimelech's land—in sort of a "custom" combination of the laws concerning levirate marriage and kinsman redemption. Boaz would have understood that, with this request, Ruth was asking him to marry her. Read Ezekiel 16:8, where God speaks as the husband of his unfaithful people. How does this parallel the story of Ruth?
- 8) In Ruth 3:10–14, in what various ways does Boaz honor and protect this "worthy woman" (3:11)? What words stand out?
- 9) The ample supply of barley Boaz sends with Ruth is meant to send a message to Naomi! How does this picture of abundance help highlight Naomi's journey through the book?
- 10) How does Ruth 3 apply to our lives? What do we learn about God in this passage? What do we learn about ourselves in this chapter?

11) End your time in prayer. Ask God to help you apply the things you've discussed and learned during this time of study.

** Some of these questions taken and adapted from: Jonathan Prime, Opening up Ruth, Opening Up Commentary (Leominster: Day One Publications, 2007).*

** Some of these questions taken from and adapted from: Kathleen Nielson, Ruth and Esther (Knowing the Bible) . Crossway. Kindle Edition.*