



TIC Connect Group Discussion Guide

7-13 July 2019 | *Ruth 1-4*

The Message. Affirm our hope in the sovereign God who can bring His plan forward in our lives even during dark times and despite our failure. Do not be bitter towards Him.

Context. Watch Bible Project’s explanation on Ruth [here](#). “This account begins in the closing days of the Judges, a 400 year period of general anarchy and oppression when the Israelites were not ruled by kings, but by periodic deliverers whom God raised up when the nation sought Him again ... to lead Israel during a specific challenge, and then to go back to obscurity. The days when the Judges ruled were actually dark days for Israel; the period was characterized by the phrase everyone did what was right in his own eyes” (Judges 17:6;18:1;19:1;21:25) (Guzik).

Concept. “The kinsman-redeemer is a male relative who, according to various laws of the Pentateuch, had the privilege or responsibility to act on behalf of a relative who was in trouble, danger, or need. The Hebrew term (*go el*) for kinsman-redeemer designates one who delivers or rescues (Genesis 48:16; Exodus 6:6) or redeems property or person (Leviticus 27:9–25, 25:47–55). The kinsman who redeems or vindicates a relative is illustrated most clearly in the book of Ruth, where the kinsman-redeemer is Boaz” (GotQuestions).

Observation & Meaning

Read 1:1-22

1. Describe the misery in Naomi’s life.

- 1:1 : _____.
- 1:5 : _____.
- 1:3 : _____.
- 1:8-10: _____.

2. What may cause Naomi to feel guilty as she says God’s hand is against her (1:13)?

- 1:1a : _____ (cf. Leviticus 26:3–4).
- 1:1b : _____ (cf. Nehemiah 10:28; Judges 10:6).
- 1:4 : _____ (cf. Deuteronomy 7:1-4; 1 Kings 11:1-2).

3. Why does Naomi ask her daughters-in-law to not follow her to Israel (1:8-15)?

4. What do:

- Naomi's statement that Orpah "has gone back to her people and to her gods" (1:15) and Ruth's statement "your God [will be] my God" (1:16);
- Naomi's statement that God "has dealt very bitterly with [her]" (1:20); and
- Naomi's statement that God "the Lord, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead!" (2:20),

tell us about Naomi's relationships with God in her bitterness?

Application

5. ECF. How can bitterness in life tempt us to be bitter against God?
6. Christ-Centeredness. How do Boaz and the kinsman-redeemer concept serve as a picture of Christ?
7. What hope does Jesus Christ give to us?
8. How does this hope in Jesus Christ "redeem" us from our bitterness?
9. What gospel would we preach to Naomi in chapter 1 if she attends our group?

Insight

- King David is the great grandson of Ruth, which means Jesus "the son of David" was also born from this line.
- "Bethlehem was a rich agricultural area (the city name means 'House of Bread')"
- "Leviticus 19:9-10 commanded farmers in Israel that they should not completely harvest their fields. They were commanded to "cut corners" in harvesting, and always leave some behind. Also, if they happened to drop a bundle of grain, they were commanded to leave it on the ground and to not pick it up ..., so the poor and needy could come and glean the remains for themselves." "This was one of the social assistance programs in Israel" (Guzik).

Resources

Guzik, David. *Ruth*. Enduring Word Commentary. Enduring Word Media, 2012.

Piper, John. "Ruth: Sweet and Bitter Providence." *Desiring God*. <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/ruth-sweet-and-bitter-providence> (accessed on July 3, 2019).

"What is a kinsman redeemer?" *GotQuestions*. <https://www.gotquestions.org/kinsman-redeemer.html> (accessed on July 3, 2019).