

If you have limited time to prepare, this 3-step outline is a helpful tool for leading a small group discussion:

1. Read the text from Sunday’s message.
2. What did you find most helpful/confusing/new/ that you did not understand from the message?
3. What were your big takeaways? How will you put these into practice in your life?

Getting Started

Each week we will include a short video related to the Broken Dreams message that your group can watch together to initiate the group discussion. Here’s the video link for this week’s message on Ruth 3.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D1SRGWxErml&list=PLbjnRsewz0Cj0xy87cjcVrYlj9OszGHXc&index=5&t=0s>

- Discuss who gave you instructions/guidance when you were seeking to follow God in some area of your life. What was the issue, what was the advice, and what did you with the guidance your received?
- Share another proposal story from your family or friends that is unique.

Discussion

Here’s a helpful outline for Ruth 3 from the Holman Concise Bible Commentary on Ruth.

Ruth’s Obedience (3:1–6).

- Naomi instructed Ruth to prepare herself properly and approach Boaz during the night at the threshing floor. She obeyed Naomi’s instructions carefully. Ironically, Naomi is the one who would find “a home” (“rest,” 3:1) for Ruth and not a Moabite husband.
- A threshing floor was a stone surface in the fields where the harvest husks were crushed, and the grain sifted from the chaff.

Ruth’s Trust (3:7–15).

- Ruth secretly approached Boaz. By lying at his feet, Ruth humbled herself as one of his servants. She trusted God to use Boaz to answer her needs and to protect her. Ruth startled Boaz since women were usually not with the men at night.
- She made her request: “Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a kinsman-redeemer.” By this expression Ruth was asking Boaz for marriage (see Ezek. 16:8). The Hebrew word translated “corner” can also be translated “wings.” Boaz had prayed that Ruth might have refuge under the “wings” of God. He was used by God to provide the refuge for which Boaz himself had prayed.
- Boaz commended Ruth for her righteous conduct because she chose him instead of a younger man. This was a greater act of loyalty (“kindness,” 3:10) than even her initial faithfulness (“kindness”) to the family.
- Boaz told Ruth that there was another kinsman who had the first right to redeem her. If he declined, then Boaz promised to marry her. He gave Ruth a bounty of grain as an indication of his commitment.

Ruth’s Patience (3:16–18).

- Ruth reported to Naomi about Boaz’s promise, and she gave her the grain from Boaz. This was another sign that God was answering their prayers through the hand of Boaz. Naomi told Ruth that she must be patient until the man carried out his pledge that day.

- What questions surface about what took place in this chapter because we don't understand the culture of that day?
- What factors in this story could lead readers to assume that a sexual indiscretion may have taken place? (Did Boaz have too much wine? The "secluded" bed? Naomi's instructions? Uncovering Boaz? Moabite history (Numbers 25:1)? Today's culture? Human nature?)
- What factors assure you that no inappropriate sexual encounter took place?
 - What was the purpose of uncovering Boaz's feet?
 - What did "spreading the corner of one's garment" signify (Ezekiel 16:8)?
 - What do we know about Ruth's moral integrity?
 - What did Boaz understand about the concept of kinsman-redeemer (Deuteronomy 25:5-6)?

Against the backdrop of the sordid events recorded in the book of Judges, God has provided this story of light in the darkness. It is possible to be morally pure no matter the circumstances. If it could happen in this relationship between Boaz and Ruth, who represented two cultures permeated with immorality, it certainly can happen in our culture today, especially since we have God's full revelation in Scripture. In addition, we can know God personally through Jesus Christ and can experience the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. (Life Essentials Study Bible, Gene Getz)

- How can we help young and old alike in our culture develop a moral value system that conforms to the will of God?
- How might you use this story to transition to sharing the gospel with someone?

Take time to familiarize yourself with the Good News summarized on www.cfdowningtown.com/gospel. You can take someone to this page and walk them through the gospel. The ultimate would be to commit this to memory, mark the verses in your Bible and be prepared share the Good News in your daily interactions with others.

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. (1 Peter 3:15)

Prayer