

The House That Ruth Built

The Book of Ruth

1. Who were some of your childhood heroes? Do you remember ways that you imitated them? What makes the “heroes” from the Bible different from our childhood heroes?
2. In the book of Ruth, we see the process of redemption play out several times: starting with love, requiring sacrifice, and ending in redemption. With your Bibles open, take a few minutes to discuss the characters in the story who carry out this process. Where do you see love (*hesed*)? Where is there sacrifice? Where are these instances of redemption?
3. The ultimate process of redemption (love, sacrifice, redemption) plays out in the gospel, but can you think of other parts of the Bible where we see this occur?
4. The Hebrew word, *hesed*, is translated love, steadfast love, kindness, lovingkindness. It’s used to describe how Ruth feels for Naomi, how Boaz feels for Ruth, and how God feels for us. Scholars have called it the most significant theological word in the Bible because of the way it describes Yahweh (See Exodus 34:6). The Greek equivalent is often translated “grace” (*charis*). Spend a few minutes discussing some New Testament passages that use the word *grace*. How do the implications behind the word *hesed* enrich your understanding of these NT verses? (ex. Ephesians 2:8, John 1:14, Acts 4:33)
5. While Ruth and Boaz are great examples to follow, the power in the book of Ruth comes from understanding God’s work of redemption throughout the story, and throughout our lives. God is a God of love, and thus by nature, a redeemer. How have you seen his tendency to redeem in your life and in the life of others?
6. Read Matthew 1:5. Who is Boaz’s mother? Is it possible that this man has a soft-spot for foreigners and outcasts? **God is always working behind the scenes.** His story is so much bigger than we realize. Have you seen examples of this in your life and the lives of others?
7. In view of God’s passionate love for you and willingness to sacrifice for you, think about the ways in which you are or aren’t willing to love and sacrifice for the sake of others. Share as you’re comfortable.

PS: If you’re a visual person, download the “Read Scripture” app for some awesome animations of other books of the Bible.