

# Ruth | Week 4 | January 31 – February 6

**Scripture:** Ruth 3:1-18

## **Scripture Questions:**

1. What is Naomi's plan for Ruth?
2. Name the motivation for Naomi's plan.
3. What are the implications and consequences of Ruth's bold and risky actions?
4. Notice the word "redeemer" in the text. What might it mean that Boaz is a "redeemer"? How would Boaz's "redeemer" role affect Naomi and Ruth?
5. How does Boaz respond to Ruth's presence at the threshing floor?
6. What word/s does Boaz use to describe Ruth in 3:11? How does this compare to the description of Boaz in Ruth 2:1? What significance might there be in these descriptions of Ruth and Boaz?
7. Characterize Boaz's words and actions in Ruth 3.

## **Sermon Discussion Questions:**

1. Think back to a time when you had to step out and take a risk—a time when you felt vulnerable and you didn't know how things would unfold. What was that experience like? How did it feel? What did you learn about God, yourself, and others?
2. In this part of the book of Ruth, we see all three of our main characters (Naomi, Ruth and Boaz) each having to practice a "risky faith." In what ways do you see each of them taking risks? What did each have to lose? Which of the three do you most identify with?
3. The entire Book of Ruth shows us how God most often works "incognito" through human actions. Instead of writing signals in the clouds or dropping gifts directly from heaven, God tends to rescue and provide through our human acts of love. How does this truth shape the way we think about what it means to be the church?
4. How does the interaction with Ruth and Boaz at the threshing floor give us a powerful picture of the gospel? How does it show us a countercultural way (then and now) that men and women might relate to another?

5. Augustine of Hippo once said, "Without God, we cannot. Without us, God will not." What do you think he meant by this?
6. What is one way that God is calling you to step out beyond your comfort zone and practice a "risky faith" right now? What is holding you back? How might you find *rest* in this holy risk-taking?
7. What else did you hear the Spirit of God saying to you today in the Scripture and/or sermon? What did you hear God saying to *us* (as a church)? Remember: God honors movement. How make you make a move this week, in his grace?

### **Giving & Receiving Kindness:**

***Expand your use of the "L" word this week. Each day tell someone different, "I love you" or "you are loved".*** In Scripture God says He loves us, and He calls us to love one another. Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz model God's love/hesed. Saying "I love you" is usually second nature around family. It becomes automatic in romantic relationships. But what about the other people in your life? Who needs to know they are loved? Who in your life needs to HEAR they are loved? Maybe it's a dear friend? Maybe longtime colleague? The guy standing on the street corner? The developmentally disabled grocery worker? Let them know. Express it to them using the word "love" if you're comfortable with it, or other words if you aren't. Expressing that sentiment produces a level of connection that is powerful for all.

***Receive love this week.*** Ponder it. be present to it, intentionally acknowledge and name it. Who loves you? In what ways are you loved? How have others shown you love? In what ways does God love you?