

Community Group Discussion Questions

“Sleepless & Single” Ruth 3 June 23, 2018

Getting Started

Finding rest in the promises of God and having faith to wait on them to come to pass is the tension of every follower of Jesus. We wait in the wonder of “What if?” feeling like time is running out, but instead we discover that God has been running ahead of us the entire time. Today’s message is a reminder that as we wait, God is working!

When has God surprised you by running ahead of you? (Think of a time when you felt like things were hopeless or really hard, but then were surprised to see what God had been putting into place to surprise you at just the right time.) Tell us about it...

Going Deeper

I. Seeking Security: (Ruth 3:1-4)

- a. **Strategic Plan**: “*should I not seek REST for you*” v. 1
 - i. **Person of Interest**: “*Boaz our relative*” v. 2
 - ii. **Place of Importance**: “*at the Threshing floor*” v. 2
- b. **Strategic Proposal**:
 - i. **Presentation of Transformation**: “*wash...anoint and put on your cloak*” v. 3
 - ii. **Declaration of Expectation**: “*uncover his feet*” v. 4

Who has spoken wisdom and security into your life, helping you to plan out a wise and bold future?

Who is looking out for you?

How have they done this?

How can you thank you for being your advocate?

II. Risking Security: (Ruth 3:5-9)

- a. Moabite Misunderstanding (Genesis 19): *“eaten and drunk...lie down”* Vs. 7
- b. Midnight Meeting: *“at midnight the man was startled”* Vs. 8
 - i. **Bold Move**: *“uncovered his feet”* Vs. 7-8
 - ii. **Bold Request**: *spread your wings* “ Vs. 9
 - 1. **Heart of Submission**: *“your servant”* Vs. 9
 - 2. **Hope of Salvation**: *“You are redeemer”* Vs. 9
 - a. **Relative**: Leviticus 25:25-28
 - b. **Resources**: Leviticus 25:47-55
 - c. **Resolve**: Deut. 25:47-55
- c. Meaningful Message: *“May you be blessed by the Lord”* Vs. 10
 - i. **Expresses Delight**: *“last kindness greater than the first”* Vs. 10
 - ii. **Explains the Delay (6 weeks)**: *“not gone after young men”* Vs. 10
 - iii. **Exposes Doubt**: *“poor or rich”* Vs. 10

Throughout this story, Boaz has noticed Ruth's character, and has given every protection and consideration to Ruth, treating her with great honor. Now, she carefully creates a situation to allow him to really 'see' her and hear her heart and her desires to be cared for as his wife. His response to her honesty and servant-heartedness again shows him to be a man of great integrity and humility. What does their relationship teach you about what should attract you to others, and how does it show you how to 'speak the truth in love' to others?

III. Willing Security: *“And now, my daughter”* Vs. 11

- a. Gracious Comfort: *“Do Not Fear”* Vs. 11
 - i. **I am Willing**: *“I will do for you all that you ask”* Vs. 11
 - ii. **You are Worthy**: *“you are a worthy woman”* Vs. 11
- b. Guiding Confidence: *“Redeemer (5x)”* Vs. 12-14
 - i. **Small Problem**: *“redeemer nearer than I”* Vs. 12
 - ii. **Sure Promise**: *“I will redeem you”* Vs. 13
- c. Gift of Compassion: *“bring the garment...hold it out”* Vs. 15
 - i. **Seed of Hope**: *“six measures of barley”* Vs. 15
 - ii. **Sacred Help**: *“not go back empty handed”* Vs. 17

Take Away: Finding Security in the Savior is understanding that if He was willing to REDEEM you, He is willing to give you REST in whatever circumstance of fear that causes you to worry about tomorrow. YOUR REDEEMER LIVES!

Read Psalm 37:3-6. How do these verses complement and explain what Boaz agrees to do for Ruth? Think back to what you have seen of Ruth's character... what has she done to honor and serve Naomi?

It can sometimes be hard to remember that God wants us to live without fear, and that when we seek His best for our lives, and trust Him, He is eager to bless us and provide answers to our needs.

Prayer Requests

Ask God to open your eyes and show you a modern day Ruth of any age, who is living faithfully and trusting the Lord, yet also needing the support and care of godly people in her life. How can you help bless her?