

Faith: Trusting, Walking, Living
A Study in Ruth & Galatians
Ruth 3:1–9

Read Ruth 3:1–18.

1. Ruth has been working in Boaz's field for about two months during the barley and wheat harvests. The opening words of this chapter: "One day Naomi her mother-in-law said to [Ruth]" could be describing any normal day in their household. How will the next 24 hours be anything but normal"?

2. What does Naomi want to find for Ruth?

Why?

3. This is not the first time Naomi has expressed this desire. How is Naomi different now than she was at the beginning of the story? (Compare 1:8–9 and 3:1)
4. Arranging a marriage in Israel required a male go-between, but neither Naomi nor Ruth had one. What other factor(s) in the story make Ruth's prospects for marriage highly unlikely?
5. Undeterred by cultural norms or potential danger, Naomi weaves a plan to find a home for Ruth. What is her plan?
6. According to custom, Ruth would likely still have been wearing the mourning clothes of a widow. What does Naomi tell her to do in verse 3? Why is this significant?

7. Up to this point in the story, the interactions between Ruth and Boaz have taken place in the light of day and in the presence of other people.
 - a. How is the setting of their meeting in chapter 3 different?
 - b. Why do you think a night time meeting was the best and worst time for Ruth and Boaz to meet?
8. Why do you think Naomi was willing to put Ruth in a situation that was potentially dangerous to her reputation, morally and physically? (2:8–9, 20)
9. What does Ruth's response to Naomi's instruction reveal about Ruth's character and where her trust lies (v. 5)?
10. Ruth understands that to uncover and lie down at Boaz's feet would be a clear marriage proposal. What emotions might she be experiencing as she heads to the threshing floor?
11. After Ruth identifies herself as his servant, what does she ask Boaz to do? (v. 9)

What is the significance of this? (Ezek. 16:8)

12. Look back at what we learned about a kinsman-redeemer in lesson 4 (question 3).
If Boaz agrees to take on the role of kinsman-redeemer, what is he expected to do for Ruth and Naomi? (4:3, 5)

What is he saving them from? How does this reflect the character of God?