



A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families: For the week of January 22, 2017

WEPC small groups meet in homes across Richmond every week to participate in Jesus Christ's mission to Richmond, enjoy fellowship, study God's Word, pray together, and explore the fruit of the Gospel on our lives. Simply put, these groups are small enough to be the church to one another, and they serve as bridges between WEPC and the community where God has planted us. It is a place where the church can go deeper in the worship of God and further in Christ's mission.

Note to Discussion Leaders: Have members read the Bible passage in the group meeting. This is a "worship discussion" guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. Read through this guide before meeting with the group. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for the time of meeting together, and use them as a starting point for your time together.

Ruth 4:1-12, "Bought"

¹ Now Boaz had gone up to the gate and sat down there. And behold, the redeemer, of whom Boaz had spoken, came by. So Boaz said, "Turn aside, friend; sit down here." And he turned aside and sat down. ² And he took ten men of the elders of the city and said, "Sit down here." So they sat down. ³ Then he said to the redeemer, "Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, is selling the parcel of land that belonged to our relative Elimelech. ⁴ So I thought I would tell you of it and say, 'Buy it in the presence of those sitting here and in the presence of the elders of my people.' If you will redeem it, redeem it. But if you will not, tell me, that I may know, for there is no one besides you to redeem it, and I come after you." And he said, "I will redeem it." ⁵ Then Boaz said, "The day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the widow of the dead, in order to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance." ⁶ Then the redeemer said, "I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I impair my own inheritance. Take my right of redemption yourself, for I cannot redeem it."

⁷ Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging: to confirm a transaction, the one drew off his sandal and gave it to the other, and this was the manner of attesting in Israel. ⁸ So when the redeemer said to Boaz, "Buy it for yourself," he drew off his sandal. ⁹ Then Boaz said to the elders and all the people, "You are witnesses this day that I have bought from the hand of Naomi all that belonged to Elimelech and all that belonged to Chilion and to Mahlon. ¹⁰ Also Ruth the Moabite, the widow of Mahlon, I have bought to be my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brothers and from the gate of his native place. You are witnesses this day." ¹¹ Then all the people who were at the gate and the elders said, "We are witnesses. May the Lord make the woman, who is coming into your house, like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the house of Israel. May you act worthily in Ephrathah and be renowned in Bethlehem, ¹² and may your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring that the Lord will give you by this young woman."

- The final chapter of Ruth describes the actions of Boaz as a redeemer for Naomi and Ruth. Describe the scene at the city gate. Who is there? What is the reason for this meeting?
- What was the motivation of the other potential redeemer? How is this revealed in this passage?
- In this meeting, people that have not been named since the beginning of this book are named again (*Elimelech, Chilion, Mahlon*). Do you believe this is significant?
- Do you think it is significant that the other redeemer is never named (*basically identified as "Mr. So-and-so" (friend) in v.1*)?
- Why did Boaz wait until the other redeemer had agreed to buy the land (v.4) before he informed him that Ruth was involved (v.5)?

- Read the Old Testament law governing this kind of situation in [Deuteronomy 25:5-9](#). What was the responsibility of the first kinsman redeemer? In v.6, the unnamed redeemer says “I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I impair my own inheritance.” What is his concern? What could have happened to that redeemer under Jewish law if Boaz did not take his place?
- Why did Boaz fulfill his responsibility while the other man declined to do so?
- What is the significance of the blessings in vv.11-12? What does it mean to be like Rachel ([Genesis 29:31](#)) and Leah ([Genesis 30:22](#))?
- Perez was Boaz’s ancestor born to Judah & Tamar ([Genesis 38:27-30](#)). What would it mean for Boaz’s house to be “like the house of Perez” (12)? Perez came into existence in a scandalous way. Why is he recorded as part of a blessing here?
- How does Boaz remind you of our Redeemer, Jesus?
- When we see redeeming love, it calls forth blessing. How is the love of Jesus Christ compelling you to love others these days?
- Pray together, thanking God for His redeeming love in Jesus Christ. Ask for grace to be captivated by the love of Christ, and strengthened to love others in Him.

*Questions about this week’s study guide? Contact Kevin Greene, kevin@wepc.org
To hear sermons and access past study guides visit www.wepc.org/archivedsermons*

Sermon Notes

This week, Steve Shelby preached on Ruth 4:1-12

The Strange World of Ruth

- Gleaning
- The city gate
- Levirate marriage

The Process and Cost of Redeeming

- This is all about preserving names:
 - Elimelech
 - Chilion
 - Mahlon
 - Ruth the widow, Ruth the Moabite
 - Mr. So and So

Love

- Love does not calculate (who is the real catch here?)
- Love bears past, present and future costs
- When we see love particularly redeeming love, it calls forth blessing