



A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families: For the week of January 8, 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 3:6-13, "Wings"

⁶ So she went down to the threshing floor and did just as her mother-in-law had commanded her. ⁷ And when Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain. Then she came softly and uncovered his feet and lay down. ⁸ At midnight the man was startled and turned over, and behold, a woman lay at his feet! ⁹ He said, "Who are you?" And she answered, "I am Ruth, your servant. Spread your wings over your servant, for you are a redeemer."¹⁰ And he said, "May you be blessed by the LORD, my daughter. You have made this last

kindness greater than the first in that you have not gone after young men, whether poor or rich. ¹¹ And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you ask, for all my fellow townsmen know that you are a worthy woman. ¹² And now it is true that I am a redeemer. Yet there is a redeemer nearer than I. ¹³ Remain tonight, and in the morning, if he will redeem you, good; let him do it. But if he is not willing to redeem you, then, as the LORD lives, I will redeem you. Lie down until the morning."

- Remember a time when you had to humble yourself. Why did you come to that point? What did you feel you were risking in humbling yourself?
- What does Ruth risk by obeying Naomi and sleeping at the threshing floor where Boaz slept?
- How did Boaz initially respond at midnight at the threshing floor (8)? Why?
- What was Ruth's request (9)? What exactly is she asking from Boaz? Why is it significant that she uses the phrase, "spread your wings"? Read Ruth 2:12 and Ezekiel 16:8 for more insight.
- What does it mean that Boaz is a "redeemer" (9)?
- In Ruth 2:20, Naomi praises Boaz for his kindness. For what kindnesses does Boaz commend Ruth (10)?
- What does it mean to be known as "worthy" (11)?
- What can you discern about Boaz from what he said to Ruth (8-13)?
- Why does Boaz ask Ruth to "remain" until morning (14)?
- Discuss some of the ways God had to humble Himself to redeem us?
- Pray together as a group. Thank Jesus for His redemption. Ask Him for grace to follow 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, Kevin Greene preached on Ruth 3:6-11

What is Ruth Risking?

- Abuse, Rejection, Reputation, Danger
- “Feet” (7); Intimate & Humble (*cf. Luke 7:36-50; John 13:1-20*)
- The Risk of Humility: What do you risk when you humble yourself?
- “Men sometimes speak as if humility and meekness would rob us of what is noble and bold and manlike. O that all would believe that this is the nobility of the kingdom of heaven, that this is the royal spirit that the King of heaven displayed.” (*Andrew Murray*)

What is Ruth Requesting?

- Two clues (9): “Your servant” and “Spread your wings”
- She learned this from Boaz; “The LORD repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!” (*Ruth 2:12*)
- Ruth heard this from God’s people; “When I passed by you again and saw you, behold, you were at the age for love, and I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness; I made my vow to you and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Lord GOD, and you became mine.” (*Ezekiel 16:8*)

How Does Boaz Respond?

- “The man was startled and turned over” (8)
- Boaz sees ...
 - God at work in Ruth’s beauty and humility; “May you be blessed by the LORD, my daughter” (10)
 - Himself faithfully
 - A pattern of “kindness” (loyal love that only comes from God)
 - Ruth’s “worth” (strength & substance that only comes from God; *Ruth 2:1; 4:11*)
- Boaz sets out to redeem & makes a vow; “as the LORD lives, I will redeem you” (13)
- Ruth’s rest. Her life is changed as she closes her eyes.

Our Kinsman-Redeemer

- There is One who has risked everything, and when we see that He has come near to us to claim us, we are humbled and changed. (*Philippians 2:5-11*)
- “Christ came chiefly for this reason: that we might learn how much God loves us, and might learn this to the end that we begin to glow with love of Him by whom we were first loved, and so might love our neighbor at the bidding and after the example of Him who made Himself our neighbor by loving us.” (*Augustine*)