

UNDER YOUR *WING*

unit 9 | session 1



CHRIST CONNECTION

Boaz was a family redeemer who showed undeserved kindness to Ruth, a foreigner, and made her his wife. In a greater way, Jesus is our Redeemer, who has shown unmerited kindness to us by providing us forgiveness from sin and making us His bride, the church.

RESPONSE AND REDEMPTION

This week, we're covering the passages and main points below. But we encourage you to dig in and read all of the content on this timeline.

Ruth 1—Ruth 4

REDEMPTION REQUIRES A RESPONSE

RUTH 1:22

22 So Naomi came back from the territory of Moab with her daughter-in-law Ruth the Moabitess. They arrived in Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

RUTH 3:5-13

5 So Ruth said to her, "I will do everything you say." 6 She went down to the threshing floor and did everything her mother-in-law had charged her to do. 7 After Boaz ate, drank, and was in good spirits, he went to lie down at the end of the pile of barley, and she came secretly, uncovered his feet, and lay down. 8 At midnight, Boaz was startled, turned over, and there lying at his feet was a woman! 9 So he asked, "Who are you?"

"I am Ruth, your servant," she replied. "Take me under your wing, for you are a family redeemer." 10 Then he said, "May the LORD bless you, my daughter. You have shown more kindness now than before, because you have not pursued younger men, whether rich or poor. 11 Now don't be afraid, my daughter. I will do for you whatever you say, since all the people in my town know that you are a woman of noble character. 12 Yes, it is true that I am a family redeemer, but there is a redeemer closer than I am. 13 Stay here tonight, and in the morning, if he wants to redeem you, that's good. Let him redeem you. But if he doesn't want to redeem you, as the LORD lives, I will. Now lie down until morning."

OUR RESPONSE BRINGS GOD GLORY

RUTH 4:13-17

13 Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. He slept with her, and the LORD granted conception to her, and she gave birth to a son. 14 The women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you without a family redeemer today. May his name become well known in Israel. 15 He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. Indeed, your daughter-in-law, who loves you and is better to you than seven sons, has given birth to him." 16 Naomi took the child, placed him on her lap, and became a mother to him. 17 The neighbor women said, "A son has been born to Naomi," and they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

MAIN POINT.

Redemption means we've made a choice to follow God.



THEOLOGY CONNECTION

THE GOSPEL

The Bible teaches that the gospel is both an event and a story. First, it is an event that took place at a specific point in history: the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ for the redemption of sinners (1 Cor. 15; 2 Cor. 5:21). The gospel is also the story of redemption that God has planned since “before the foundation of the world” (Eph. 1:4). This story runs through Scripture and culminates in a new heaven and new earth where sin, death, and suffering will never again plague humanity, and God’s people will live with Him forever (Isa. 25:8; 2 Pet. 3:13; Rev. 21). The event and story do not exist apart from or in conflict with one another but together inspire us to a life of devotion and mission.

DISCUSSION

REDEMPTION REQUIRES A RESPONSE

RUTH 1:22; 3:5-13

- Read Ruth 1:6-18. Would you make the same decision as Ruth? Why?
- ♥ • Why do we struggle with the need to understand why? What does Ruth’s story teach us?
- What did Ruth’s choice to leave Moab mean for her?

OUR RESPONSE BRINGS GOD GLORY

RUTH 4:13-17

- ✝ • What is a kinsman-redeemer? In what ways does Boaz point to Jesus?
- 📖 • Though Ruth was a Gentile, she was included in Jesus’s family line (Matt. 1:5)! How is this a picture of the gospel?
- 🧠 • Ruth couldn’t know how her story would fit into God’s big story. Why is this a good reminder for us?



HOW COULD YOUR STORY PLAY A PART IN SOMEONE ELSE’S REDEMPTION?

CULTURAL CONNECTION

What keeps you from sharing the gospel with people? What are you afraid of? Many of us are afraid of the same things: we don’t want to feel awkward; we don’t want to make others feel uncomfortable; we don’t want to be disliked or shunned; or we want to blend in. We often let these fears keep us silent about the hope we have as believers. What’s at stake is lost on us—the eternal salvation of people we know and love. The story of Ruth is a powerful reminder that our lives and our testimonies affect those around us. In fact, our story of hope can radically change someone else’s life—it can lead them out of idolatry and darkness and into redemption and light. We can’t keep silent. It matters too much.



DAY ONE

JOHN 3:16

Most of us have experienced a major shift in our thinking before. We may have grown up one way and were taught specific ideas about the world and about people. But as we got older, we may have begun to develop our own ideas. We may have even encountered situations or people who shattered our preconceived ideas or prejudices. And it shifted everything.

You've likely read this verse before; it's maybe the most recognizable verse in the Bible. But let's look at the context. Jesus was having a secret conversation at night with Nicodemus. Nicodemus was a Pharisee and member of the prestigious Sanhedrin, the ruling body of the Jewish people. This man knew the law. He knew God's expectations for His people. He grew up steeped in certain ideas about Jews and Gentiles. But He couldn't grasp the meaning of being born again. He had trouble wrapping his mind around the idea that the Messiah was coming for all people. In Jewish circles, the idea that the Jewish Messiah would only be for the Jews ran rampant. They believed it was an exclusive privilege for God's chosen people—Israel. But Jesus shifted everything. He came for all people—Jews and Gentiles. Anyone who believes in Him will have everlasting life. Jesus's words here are earth shattering. They changed everything, and His sacrifice welcome us all who choose to believe into God's family.

- **WHEN HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED A MAJOR SHIFT IN YOUR THINKING?**
- **WHEN HAVE YOU ALSO HAD TROUBLE WITH THE FACT THAT GOD IS WILLING TO WELCOME EVERYONE?**

PRAY

GOD, THANK YOU FOR SENDING YOUR SON TO REDEEM US. THANK YOU FOR WELCOMING ALL PEOPLE WHO COME TO YOU IN REPENTANCE INTO YOUR FAMILY. HELP ME TO DO THE SAME.



DAY TWO

PROVERBS 3:5-6

Do you have a pretty clear plan for your life? You may already know what you want to do. Maybe you have it all charted out: You plan to graduate high school, attend college, start a career, marry the love of your life, and have a family. Maybe you plan to move to a large city or to explore the world. Maybe you plan to take over a family business. But here's the thing with life: it can often take us places we didn't expect. The straight path we planned may turn into one that weaves and wanders into places we didn't plan to go.

This week, we read about Naomi and Ruth. We learned that Ruth decided to leave Moab and traveled to Bethlehem with Naomi. We can probably assume that Ruth didn't see this coming. It was likely something she never planned, but God led her to this. We may walk down roads we never dreamed of walking, but even in those unexpected moments, we can still walk on straight paths. How? According to this passage, we walk straight paths by trusting in the Lord and not leaning on our own understanding. Ruth didn't lean on what made logical sense. It probably would've made sense for her to stay home, but she trusted in Naomi's God—in Yahweh. And trusting in Him shifted her entire life for the better! We can trust in God and rely on His understanding instead of our own. He is taking us good places, even when those places weren't in our plans. Let Him guide you, and commit to following Him. He's leading you to good places because He has good plans for your life.

- **HOW WOULD YOU REACT IF GOD PIVOTED THE PLANS YOU'VE MADE FOR YOUR LIFE?**
- **WHY DO YOU THINK WE HAVE TROUBLE WITH RELYING ON GOD'S UNDERSTANDING INSTEAD OF OUR OWN?**

PRAY

**LORD, I WANT TO TRUST IN YOU WITH ALL MY HEART
INSTEAD OF RELYING ON MY OWN PLANS. I KNOW
YOU CAN SEE SO MUCH MORE THAN I CAN, AND I
TRUST YOU WITH MY LIFE.**



DAY THREE

1 PETER 2:10-11

In his book, *Mere Christianity*, C. S. Lewis wrote, “If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.”¹ Think about these words. Have you ever felt dissatisfied? Have you ever longed for something, but when you finally got it or earned it, you were left feeling let down? Maybe it satisfied you temporarily, but that feeling eventually wore off. Lewis pointed out a critical truth we must all learn: the things of this world will let us down because we weren’t made for this world.

In the passage today, Peter called believers to live as “strangers and exiles.” In other words, he reminded believers that we’re not really home. We’re foreigners here, only passing through. To live as strangers and exiles implies that we hold this world very loosely. We don’t cling to it. We don’t even settle in here totally. Instead, we know our home is in heaven. As believers, we’re already citizens there, and we long to be there because we’re created to be with our Maker there. This doesn’t mean we live disconnected from people or even from our lives here; it means we live more deliberately. We live in a way that points others to Jesus. We live in a way that is meaningful and satisfying because we’re investing in what lasts. It’s okay to be a stranger here; you’re not home yet.

- **ARE YOU CLINGING TO THIS WORLD OR LIVING AS A STRANGER AND EXILE HERE? WHY OR WHY NOT?**
- **WHY IS IT TEMPTING TO SETTLE IN HERE? HOW CAN YOU REMAIN FOCUSED ON THE IDEA THAT HEAVEN IS YOUR HOME?**

PRAY

GOD, I KNOW NOTHING IN THIS WORLD CAN SATISFY ME THE WAY YOU CAN. HELP ME TO LIVE DELIBERATELY, CLINGING ONLY TO YOU AND INVESTING IN WHAT LASTS.



DAY FOUR

1 PETER 1:18-21

Have you ever been in a situation where you needed to borrow money? You may have been in the check-out line and realized you left your wallet at home, or maybe you ate a meal with friends and realized you didn't have enough money to cover it. Someone stepped in and took care of the need, and you were probably grateful for their generosity. Most of us even promise to pay them back as soon as we can.

When Jesus died for our sins, He paid for our sin. We didn't just come up a little short. We were in crippling debt. No amount of effort to live a good life would've been enough to make up the difference. The only payment for our sin was death. But instead of us paying this price, Jesus left His throne in heaven, took on flesh, and submitted Himself to beating and death. He paid our price. We weren't redeemed by anything perishable, like silver and gold. We were redeemed by the one perfect Lamb of God. We were redeemed by Jesus—the very Son of God and the only One who could ever pay our debt. His spilled blood was enough to cover the sins of all humanity for all time. He redeemed us from the pattern of sin we were trapped in and brought us to freedom. And the best part? We can't pay Him back. We don't have to. We simply accept the gift and walk in freedom. We let His payment be enough, and we love Him back in return for His sacrifice. When we do this, we're honoring our Redeemer. May we never let Jesus's sacrifice become commonplace.

- **HOW DOES IT FEEL TO KNOW JESUS PAID FOR YOUR SIN? HOW CAN YOU HONOR HIM IN RETURN?**
- **WHAT CAN YOU DO TO KEEP THIS TRUTH FRESH INSTEAD OF LETTING IT BECOME COMMONPLACE?**

PRAY

JESUS, THANK YOU FOR GIVING YOUR LIFE FOR MINE. I LOVE YOU AND WANT TO HONOR YOU AS MY REDEEMER BY LIVING MY LIFE TO MAKE YOU PROUD.



DAY FIVE

1 PETER 3:13-16

What does it mean to pay it forward? It usually means that when someone shows us an act of kindness, we turn and show it to someone else. This sometimes happens in a fast food lane when one person in line pays the bill for whoever comes next. It begins a ripple effect, with that person then paying it forward to someone else.

As believers, we've been shown incredible kindness, love, and compassion. Jesus has redeemed us from our sin. And in a sense, we're called to pay it forward. What does this mean? It means we do everything we can to share this truth with others. Because God has shown us grace, we do all we can to share the gospel with unbelievers so that they can also experience God's saving grace. It means that because we've been forgiven of so much, we're willing to turn around and forgive others. It means that because God has shown us such kindness and love, we turn around and show kindness and love to others—and not just to those we find it easy to love but to strangers and even enemies. Because we've been shown radical love, we're called to radically love others. We take what we've been given, which is the hope of heaven, and we give it away to as many people as we can. How? We use our words. We use our actions. We use every opportunity to pay it forward so others can know Jesus and be redeemed. Why would we ever want to keep this to ourselves?

- **WHY HAVE YOU MAYBE KEPT YOUR HOPE TO YOURSELF? WHY DON'T WE DO MORE TO SHARE IT?**
- **WHAT STEPS CAN YOU TAKE THIS WEEK TO SHARE THE HOPE YOU HAVE WITH OTHERS?**

PRAY

GOD, THANK YOU FOR SHOWING ME LOVE AND KINDNESS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR MERCY AND GRACE. HELP ME TO SHARE THE GOSPEL WITH OTHERS EVERY CHANCE I GET.