

### **Background Information**

The barley and wheat harvest are over, and yet the wealthy kinsman has not taken any further steps. Boaz has made no offer toward Ruth, so Naomi decides to make her intentions known. It appears that there may have been several reasons that Boaz had not proposed wedlock to Ruth (1) his considerable seniority in years; (2) his not being the nearest kinsman. It may be also that a third reason that legally Naomi, the wife of Ruth's deceased father-in-law, really had the prior claim on him. Naomi's awakened hope gives her the courage to act in behalf of Ruth. Sending Ruth to make her request known, she also waved her claim in Ruth's favor. It is now time for Ruth to rest and wait, trusting her *kinsman-redeemer*.

The "Kinsmen Redeemer" *goel*, refers to a relative who acts as a protector of family rights. He could be called upon to perform a number of duties (1) to buy back property that the family had sold (2) to provide an heir for a deceased brother by marrying the brother's wife and producing a child which would carry on the family name (3) buy back a family member who had been sold into slavery due to poverty, or to (4) avenge a relative who had been murdered.



## LOOKING FOR GOLD - WHAT DOES IT SAY?

The first step in mining for gold is getting the lay of the land. **Carefully observe the text** looking to see where you might dig to find hidden treasure. **Mark your text** looking for repeated words, contrasts or similarities. Look for answers to, Who? What? When? Where? Why or How?

*Setting the scene:* You may want to begin your reading with Lev. 25: 23-25, Deut. 25:5-10,

### Ruth 3:1-5

1 Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, shall I not seek security for you, that it may be well with you? 2 Now Boaz, whose young women you were with, is he not our relative? In fact, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. 3 Therefore wash yourself and anoint yourself, put on your best garment and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. 4 Then it shall be, when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies; and you shall go in, uncover his feet, and lie down; and he will tell you what you should do." 5 And she said to her, "All that you say to me I will do."



### Digging Deeper

Dig deeper using other resources such as a dictionary, concordance, maps & cross-references. Notate where you found it to share with the group. Look for commands to obey or questions to be answered. What does God want you to know about Himself?

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**Ruth 3:6-13**

6 So she went down to the threshing floor and did according to all that her mother-in-law instructed her. 7 And after Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was cheerful, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain; and she came softly, uncovered his feet, and lay down.

8 Now it happened at midnight that the man was startled, and turned himself; and there, a woman was lying at his feet. 9 And he said, "Who are you?" So she answered, "I am Ruth, your maidservant. Take your maidservant under your wing, for you are a close relative." 10 Then he said, "Blessed are you of the Lord, my daughter! For you have shown more kindness at the end than at the beginning, in that you did not go after young men, whether poor or rich. 11 And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you request, for all the people of my town know that you are a virtuous woman. 12 Now it is true that I am a close relative; however, there is a relative closer than I. 13 Stay this night, and in the morning it shall be that if he will perform the duty of a close relative for you — good; let him do it. But if he does not want to perform the duty for you, then I will perform the duty for you, as the Lord lives! Lie down until morning."



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**Ruth 3:14-18**

14 So she lay at his feet until morning, and she arose before one could recognize another. Then he said, "Do not let it be known that the woman came to the threshing floor." 15 Also he said, "Bring the shawl that is on you and hold it." And when she held it, he measured six ephahs of barley, and laid it on her. Then she went into the city.

16 When she came to her mother-in-law, she said, "Is that you, my daughter?" Then she told her all that the man had done for her. 17 And she said, "These six ephahs of barley he gave me; for he said to me, 'Do not go empty-handed to your mother-in-law.'" 18 Then she said, "Sit still, my daughter, until you know how the matter will turn out; for the man will not rest until he has concluded the matter this day."



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## BOILING IT DOWN – WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

What **lesson** can I draw from my observations?

State each lesson in a simple sentence (aim for 10 words or less).

Ruth 3:1-5 \_\_\_\_\_  
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Ruth 3:6-13 \_\_\_\_\_  
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Ruth 3:14-18 \_\_\_\_\_  
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## REFINED AS GOLD - HOW CAN I APPLY IT?

How should it change me? Ask yourself, "What **course of action** do I need to take to apply each lesson?" (aim for 10 words or less)

Ruth 3:1-5 \_\_\_\_\_  
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Ruth 3:6-13 \_\_\_\_\_  
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Ruth 3:14-18 \_\_\_\_\_  
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**CHALLENGE:** Use cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up a main point of the chapter. Summarize your findings in your own words.

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## STORING UP YOUR TREASURE . . .

What is God's promise to the Gentiles? Rom 15:12

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What 3 steps did Ruth take to prepare herself to approach Boaz? v. 3

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What was Ruth asking of Boaz?

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How did Boaz respond to Ruth's request?

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What words or phrases are repeated? Repeated words help us discover the main points.

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**CHECKING FOR CLARITY:** See if you can boil down the meaning of **each section** into one or two words. This helps you fully understand what the author is trying to convey. (It's fun to alliterate if you want to try) Did you catch the vision?

Ruth 3:1-5 \_\_\_\_\_  
Ruth 31:6-13 \_\_\_\_\_  
Ruth 3:14-22 \_\_\_\_\_

**BARS OF GOLD:** State the main **point** of the passage in the form of a title.

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**FLEX YOUR MUSCLES:** Can you discover an N.T. example of this O.T. truth?

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## HIDE YOUR TREASURE IN YOUR HEART

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. Prov. 3:5-6

Radiating His Truth . . .

*"I will do for you all that you request".* Whatever God starts, He finishes; and what He does, He does well. - Warren Wiersbe

