

Fellowship Group Questions for *The Power of Redeeming Love*
Sermon #5 – *Doing Faith*

Let's see who you can remember. Without looking at your Bible or sermon notes name the characters in our story.

Read Ruth 3.

Boaz is referred to a "close relative" (2:20) and as a "family redeemer" (3:2, 9, 12). It is the Hebrew word *goel*. Describe the significance of this title.

Read James 2:14-17. What do these verses tell us about faith?

How does this idea of a working faith relate to Ruth?

Another picture of faith that we can see in chapter 3 is that faith risks. Where does this show up in the story?

Read Ruth 3:9. How was Ruth's request a picture of submission?

Read Ruth 3:18. The fourth picture of faith that we can see in Ruth 3 is that faith waits. How difficult do you think that it may have been for Ruth to wait for the results of Boaz's meeting with the other relative?

What does patiently waiting for God to work in His time and in His way, do to our faith?

Which one of the pictures of faith (work, risk, submit, wait) is the most difficult for you?

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Sermon #5 – *Doing Faith*

Let's see who you can remember. Without looking at your Bible or sermon notes name the characters in our story. **Elimelech, Naomi, Kilion, Mahlon, Orpah, Ruth, Boaz**

Read Ruth 3.

Boaz is referred to a "close relative" (2:20) and as a "family redeemer" (3:2, 9, 12). It is the Hebrew word *goel*. Describe the significance of this title.

It is deeper than just a relative. The idea is that of a *kinsman-redeemer*.

- usually a prominent male in the extended family
- official guardian of the family honor
- the one to revenge the blood of a murdered relative
- he could buy back family lands sold in times of hardship
- he could pay the redemptive price for family members sold into slavery
- he could redeem the property of a deceased relative who had died restoring it to his survivors: if he did this and he was single or a widower he would be required to marry the deceased widow as well

Read James 2:14-17. What do these verses tell us about faith? **Faith that's alive is active faith. Faith works.**

How does this idea of a working faith relate to Ruth? **Naomi encouraged Ruth to go the threshing floor and propose to Boaz. Instead of just sitting around hoping something would happen, Naomi encouraged Ruth to put her faith to work.**

Another picture of faith that we can see in chapter 3 is that faith risks. Where does this show up in the story? **By going down to the threshing floor and following Naomi's instructions Ruth was taking a huge risk. She was taking Naomi's word that this was the way it worked in their country. She took the risk that by going at night someone might see her and accuse her of being improper. They might have said something like, "Look at that Moabite woman. She's going down to throw herself at Boaz." Rumor really could have begun to fly in the little town of Bethlehem.**

She took a risk that Boaz would reject her that he would refuse to fulfill his role as a kinsman-redeemer.

Read Ruth 3:9. How was Ruth's request a picture of submission? **When Ruth asks Boaz to "spread the corner of your covering over me," she literally said, "take your servant under your wing." Remember what Boaz said to Ruth back in chapter 2 when he first met her: "May the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge, reward you fully for what you have done." (2:12 - NLT) Ruth used the same word picture that Boaz had used several months earlier when he described how Ruth brought herself under God's wings for her refuge. So, in essence what Ruth is proposing to Boaz is, "I want you to be God's wing of refuge for me. I want to submit myself to your care and protection."**

Read Ruth 3:18. The fourth picture of faith that we can see in Ruth 3 is that faith waits. How difficult do you think that it may have been for Ruth to wait for the results of Boaz's meeting with the other relative?

What does patiently waiting for God to work in His time and in His way, do to our faith? **It grows it.**

Which one of the pictures of faith (work, risk, submit, wait) is the most difficult for you?