THE REDEEMER

Ruth 3

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- What do you think we should *do* while we wait for God to provide his answer to our needs?
- What is the definition of the word redeem? What does a redeemer do?

In the story of Ruth, each of the main characters chooses to act righteously despite the risk their actions pose to themselves. Early on, Naomi returns home. Ruth sticks with Naomi and leaves behind the land of her birth. In chapter 3, we'll see the reputations of both Ruth and Boaz put at risk on the threshing floor. But their righteous acts are not in vain. Discover how God's provision for Ruth and Naomi through Boaz, their kinsman redeemer, saves their family and gives us a glimpse of his plan to redeem all of creation through Jesus Christ.

Listen:*The Redeemer*

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- At the end of segment 1, host Dave Bast makes this observation about the story of Ruth, "It is [about] ordinary people. No kings in here, there are no generals, there are no big battles, it is day-to-day life of regular folks, and God is at work in the details of their lives." What does this tell you about God? What does this mean for you?
- In Ruth 3:1-6, Naomi has a plan. She urges Ruth to present herself to Boaz and seek his provision. While some might argue that Naomi's actions show a lack of trust in God's providence, host Scott Hoezee explains, "Yes; providence is good, but we are not supposed to be passive in providence. We are not supposed to just sit back and say: Well, God will take care of it. No, God wants us to use our heads and use our actions to move his providence along, and Naomi has a plan." What other Bible stories or verses show or teach this truth that we should not remain passive even as we wait for God? Where have you seen this affirmed in your life?
- In her book *The Gospel of Ruth: Loving God Enough to Break the Rules*, Carolyn Custis James provides a study of the Hebrew word *hesed*, a word used three times in the book to describe the choices and actions of Ruth and Boaz. James writes, "...*hesed* is a strong Hebrew word that sums up the ideal lifestyle for God's people. It's the way God intended for human beings to live together from the beginning—the "love-your-neighbor-as-yourself" brand of living, an active, selfless, sacrificial caring for one another that goes against the grain of our fallen natures...It's actually the kind of love we find most fully expressed in Jesus. In a nutshell, *hesed* is the gospel lived out" (p. 115). Consider this concept of *hesed*. Where do you see it lived out in the book of Ruth? Why is this important and how does it help us to better understand God as redeemer?
- When discussing the role of Boaz as kinsman redeemer, Scott says that Boaz "is a foreshadowing of what God is going to do also through Christ." Reflect on how Christ is our kinsman redeemer. What does

this mean to you?

Related Passages

- **Isaiah 41:13-14**
- **Isaiah 43:1-2**
- **Romans 3:23-24**

Conclusion

Read Isaiah 43:1-2 slowly, reflecting on it line by line. Write down your thoughts and reactions. Then, using your notes, write a prayer of response to God. Describe to him the emotions that rise within you when you read his promises to you. Tell him what his promises prompt you to say and do.

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