

# Reaching the Lost

God's plan for redemption has always included reaching the lost.



**GOD'S STORY**  
THE TRANSFORMATION FOR ADULT LIFEGROUPS

**Ruth 4**

**May 31, 2020**

(Ruth 4:1-12) <sup>1</sup> Meanwhile Boaz went up to the town gate and sat down there just as the guardian-redeemer he had mentioned came along. Boaz said, "Come over here, my friend, and sit down." So he went over and sat down. <sup>2</sup> Boaz took ten of the elders of the town and said, "Sit here," and they did so. <sup>3</sup> Then he said to the guardian-redeemer, "Naomi, who has come back from Moab, is selling the piece of land that belonged to our relative Elimelek. <sup>4</sup> I thought I should bring the matter to your attention and suggest that you buy it in the presence of these seated here and in the presence of the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, do so. But if you will not, tell me, so I will know. For no one has the right to do it except you, and I am next in line." "I will redeem it," he said. <sup>5</sup> Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the land from Naomi, you also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the dead man's widow, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property." <sup>6</sup> At this, the guardian-redeemer said, "Then I cannot redeem it because I might endanger my own estate. You redeem it yourself. I cannot do it." <sup>7</sup> (Now in earlier times in Israel, for the redemption and transfer of property to become final, one party took off his sandal and gave it to the other. This was the method of legalizing transactions in Israel.) <sup>8</sup> So the guardian-redeemer said to Boaz, "Buy it yourself." And he removed his sandal. <sup>9</sup> Then Boaz announced to the elders and all the people, "Today you are witnesses that I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelek, Kilion and Mahlon. <sup>10</sup> I have also acquired Ruth the Moabite, Mahlon's widow, as my wife, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property, so that his name will not disappear from among his family or from his hometown. Today you are witnesses!" <sup>11</sup> Then the elders and all the people at the gate said, "We are witnesses. May the Lord make the woman who is coming into your home like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the family of Israel. May you have standing in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem. <sup>12</sup> Through the offspring the Lord gives you by this young woman, may your family be like that of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah."

(Ruth 4:13-15) <sup>13</sup> So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When he made love to her, the Lord enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son. <sup>14</sup> The women said to Naomi: "Praise be to the Lord, who this day has not left you without a guardian-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel! <sup>15</sup> He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. For your daughter-in-law, who loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has given him birth."

(Ruth 4:16-22) <sup>16</sup> Then Naomi took the child in her arms and cared for him. <sup>17</sup> The women living there said, "Naomi has a son!" And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David. <sup>18</sup> This, then, is the family line of Perez: Perez was the father of Hezron, <sup>19</sup> Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab, <sup>20</sup> Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, <sup>21</sup> Salmon the father of Boaz, Boaz the father of Obed, <sup>22</sup> Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David.

## COMMUNITY – CONNECTING WITH ONE ANOTHER

- How do you tend to respond when things don't go the way you planned?
- Share about a time when you struggled to see God's purpose in a difficult situation. Looking back, what did you learn from that situation?

## CONTENT – EXPLORING GOD'S STORY

Have a volunteer read Ruth 4:1-12

- Take a look back at Ruth 3. What business matter did Boaz settle at the city gate? Why do you think he was interested in taking care of this matter so quickly (v. 18)?
- How did Boaz's generous responsibility ensure security for both Naomi and Ruth? Why was this beneficial for their entire community?
- What happened to Ruth in verses 11-12? Why is this important for us to understand?

Have a volunteer read Ruth 4:13-15

- What hardships had Ruth and Naomi faced? How did they respond to those hardships?
- How did God redeem Ruth's past (v. 13)? What about Ruth makes her a surprising recipient of God's grace?
- How did God redeem Naomi's pain? Compare Naomi's response to the birth of Obed in verses 14-15 with her response to the death of her husband and sons (Ruth 1:15,20-21).
- Read Psalm 127:3-5. Why was the birth of Obed such a precious gift? How did his birth demonstrate God's grace?

Have a volunteer read Ruth 4:16-22

- Why do you think the story of Ruth concludes with a genealogy of David?
- Read Matthew 1:5. Ruth was one of only five women Matthew named in Jesus' genealogy. Why is this significant?
- What does this genealogy reveal about God's plan for lost humanity?
- God used Ruth, someone who was at one time outside of the Jewish faith, as an integral part of His plan for redemption. What does the gospel teach us about God's concern for all people?

## COMMISSION – ENGAGING IN GOD'S STORY

- How has your own life been changed because God's story includes seeking the lost? How can God's plan for the world change our church's story?
- The Book of Ruth is a wonderful story of God's faithfulness. Where have you seen God faithfully at work in your life in the past? Where do you need to trust His faithfulness now?
- Who do you know that needs to be reminded that God is in control and has a purpose for their lives? How might you encourage them to trust Christ in the midst of their difficulties this week?

## CONTINUE TO JOURNEY THROUGH GOD'S STORY

## Bible Reading Plan:

DAY 1 – 1 Samuel 1-2  
DAY 2 – 1 Samuel 3, 8  
DAY 3 – 1 Samuel 9-10  
DAY 4 – 1 Samuel 13-14  
DAY 5 – 1 Samuel 15-16

KEY VERSE: 1 Samuel 16:7

## H.E.A.R. Method:

Highlight a verse or two.  
Explain what the text means.  
Apply the verse to your life.  
Respond to God.

Our team has put together Bible study resources to encourage and inspire you as you engage in God's Story.  
Visit [chetscreek.com/gods-story](https://chetscreek.com/gods-story) for videos, study guides, and more.

**OUR VISION**

To be a church  
for the unchurched,  
here and around the world.

**ADULT LIFEGROUPS**

Gospel-centered communities that aim to KNOW  
GOD together and BE CHANGED by Him in a  
way that will CHANGE THE WORLD.