

In Chapter 4 of Ruth we finally see hope solidify for Ruth and Naomi. Boaz follows through on his commitment, redeems them, and they begin a new life together. Although it requires diligence and patience, both Ruth and Naomi experience blessing as a result of the kindness of Boaz. In this study we will look at that moment when hope breaks through and we can begin to see what God has been doing all along. There is a purpose for our situation, but sometimes it takes a while to actually see and appreciate it.

### What Do You Think?

- They say it is always darkest before the dawn. Do you think that is true?
- Have you ever experienced that moment in transition when the light of hope comes up over the horizon? What is it like?

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“She replied, ‘Wait, my daughter, until you learn how the matter turns out, for the man will not rest but will settle the matter today.’”

Ruth 3:18 (ESV)

### What Does God Say?

- **Read Ruth 1:20-21** and then read **Ruth 3:16-18**. Contrast Naomi’s state-of-mind from the beginning of this transition until now. What has changed and why?
- **Read Ruth 4:2-10**. Boaz took a risk on Ruth and Naomi. How do you think that made them feel? Has someone ever taken a risk on you?

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“Then the women said to Naomi, ‘Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without a redeemer, and may his name be renowned in Israel! He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age, for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has given birth to him.’”

Ruth 4:14-15 (ESV)

- **Read Ruth 4:13-17.** With risk came reward. Some they got to see; some came after they were gone. What were the rewards for Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz, both short-term and long-term? Why is it so hard for us to see these rewards coming when we are in the middle of transition?
- As we wrap up our study of Ruth, it is important to recognize that Boaz is a picture of Jesus. Ruth 4:14 says, “*Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without a redeemer...*” Jesus is our kinsmen-redeemer. **Read 1 Peter 5:5-11.** Compare what you have learned about the story of Ruth and these instructions from Peter.

## What Will You Do?

- Although the book ends with a “happily ever after” feeling, we know that their lives went on in their new normal. They lived in the day-to-day and may not have seen the bigger picture that we get to see today. Step out of your day-to-day for a moment and think about your life from a broader perspective. Are there any themes that you can see God bringing out as a result of transitions?
- We have focused on largely difficult transitions during this series. What are some positive transitions you have gone through and what lessons have you learned?
- How has your perspective changed about transitions during this series? What will you think or do differently as a result?