



DISCUSSION GUIDE DECEMBER 18, 2022

Dive In

Go around and let everyone answer...

What's the best marriage advice you ever received and what's the worst marriage advice you ever received?

Dive Deep

Read Ruth 4:2-10

"²Boaz took ten of the elders of the town and said, "Sit here," and they did so. ³Then 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. ⁴I 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. ⁵Then 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." ⁶At 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." ⁷(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.) ⁸So the guardian-redeemer said to Boaz, "Buy it yourself." And he removed his sandal. ⁹Then 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. ¹⁰I 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!"

- Think about the choices Boaz and the unnamed kinsman each make in **v 2-10**. What do you learn about each man's priorities?
- What traits does Boaz show in this story that reflect a healthy and promising start to a future marriage and family?
- Read Galatians 5:22-26. How does this passage relate to our story and how does it relate to a healthy marriage?
- Even for those who are not married why is it important that we understand God's view of marriage?
- How do strong Christian marriages benefit societies?
- What are the risks and outcomes of not having strong marriages in a society?

Do Big

- How would you score (1-10) yourself in each category found in Galatians 5:22-23 when it comes to your marriage, family relationships, or those you spend the most of your time with? (Answer to yourself)
- What is one thing you will do this week to improve your "score" in each area?



LEADERS

Read Ruth 4

Background:

Boaz takes the final steps to redeem Ruth. He purchases Naomi's land, which gives him the ability to take Ruth as a wife.

Key Thoughts

A Spirit filled and Spirit led marriage should be your goal, not a marriage led by the flesh.

Challenge

What steps will you take to better display the fruit of the Spirit in your close relationships this week?

Weekly Memory Verse

"¹⁶So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law."

– Galatians 5:16-18