

Review from last week:

Boaz shows special kindness to Ruth. He invites her to eat with him and his workers. Boaz gave additional orders to his men to allow her to glean where she likes, leave additional stalks of grain for her, and to neither embarrass nor touch her in any way. Ruth returned to Naomi with a large abundance of grain.

Read Ruth 3:1-2

One day Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, should I not try to find a home for you, where you will be well provided for? ² Is not Boaz, with whose servant girls you have been (worked), a kinsman of ours?" (NIV 84)

1. What is Naomi saying to Ruth with her questions?

Read Ruth 3:2-4

² Tonight he (Boaz) will be winnowing barley on the threshing floor. ³ Wash and perfume yourself, and put on your best clothes. Then go down to the threshing floor, but don't let him know you are there until he has finished eating and drinking. ⁴ When he lies down, note the place where he is lying. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down. He will tell you what to do." (NIV 84)

2. What is Naomi trying to do?

3. List some things that Naomi told Ruth to do.

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Read Ruth 3:5-6

⁵ "I will do whatever you say," Ruth answered. ⁶ So she went down to the threshing floor and did everything her mother-in-law told her to do. (NIV 84)

4. What potential risks or rewards could Ruth face?

Risks — — — —
 Rewards — — — —

Read Ruth 3:7

⁷ When Boaz had finished eating and drinking and was in good spirits, he went over to lie down at the far end of the grain pile. Ruth approached quietly, uncovered his feet and lay down. ⁸ In the middle of the night something startled the man, and he turned and discovered a woman lying at his feet. ⁹ "Who are you?" he asked. "I am your servant Ruth," she said. "Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a kinsman-redeemer." (NIV 84)

5. What reason/s could Boaz had for sleeping near the grain pile?

6. Beyond covering Ruth with his garment, what other things is Ruth asking of Boaz?

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Read Ruth 3:10

¹⁰ "The LORD bless you, my daughter," he replied. "This kindness is greater than that which you showed earlier." (NIV 84)

7. How did Boaz reply to Ruth's late night request?
8. To what earlier kindness is Boaz referring?

Read Ruth 3:10-11

¹⁰ You have not run after the younger men, whether rich or poor. ¹¹ And now, my daughter, don't be afraid. I will do for you all you ask. All my fellow townsmen know that you are a woman of noble character. (NIV 84)

9. What kindness does Boaz say is greater?
10. List the things that Boaz promises to do.
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11. Why add the words, *All my fellow townsmen know that you are a woman of noble character*?

Read Ruth 3:12-13

¹² Although it is true that I am near of kin, there is a kinsman-redeemer nearer than I. ¹³ Stay here for the night, and in the morning if he wants to redeem, good; let him redeem. But if he is not willing, as surely as the LORD lives I will do it. Lie here until morning. (NIV 84)

12. What is the Good and Bad news Boaz pointed out?
Good
Bad

Read Ruth 3:14-15

¹⁴ So she lay at his feet until morning, but got up before anyone could be recognized; and he said, "Don't let it be known that a woman came to the threshing floor." ¹⁵ He also said, "Bring me the shawl you are wearing and hold it out." When she did so, he poured into it six measures of barley and put it on her. Then he went back to town. (NIV 84)

13. What reason/s could Boaz have for keeping their nighttime promises a secret?
14. How much barley did Boaz give Ruth?
Estimates: 6 Ephahs = 200 pounds 6 Seahs = 90 pounds 6 Omers = 20 pounds
Or perhaps Boaz scooped six times.
15. What reasons could Boaz have had for giving Ruth Barley?
16. Why do you think Boaz headed back to town and not remained with the Barley?