

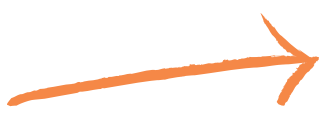
the HOME SHEET

this week's topic: [T]RUTH 3



I. CHECK-IN

- Check-in with each other. How is life? What is happening?
- Reflect on last week's challenge: First, are there places in your life where you feel like God is micromanaging the situation? If you do, then I want you to put that way of thinking aside, and instead reframe your mindset to “how is God present and through whom is God present in this situation.” That simple shift can make a huge difference. The second part of that challenge is that you may allow your life to become a vessel through which God is present in others. Learn to love others, care for others, support others and lift them up.



II. SCRIPTURE

Ruth 3:

Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, “My daughter, shouldn’t I seek security for you, so that things might go well for you? 2 Now isn’t Boaz, whose young women you were with, our relative? Tonight he will be winnowing barley at the threshing floor. 3 You should bathe, put on some perfume, wear nice clothes, and then go down to the threshing floor. Don’t make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. 4 When he lies down, notice the place where he is lying. Then go, uncover his feet, and lie down. And he will tell you what to do.” 5 Ruth replied to her, “I’ll do everything you are telling me.” 6 So she went down to the threshing floor, and she did everything just as her mother-in-law had ordered. 7 Boaz ate and drank, and he was in a good mood. He went over to lie down by the edge of the grain pile. Then she quietly approached, uncovered his legs, and lay down. 8 During the middle of the night, the man shuddered and turned over—and there was a woman lying at his feet. 9 “Who are you?” he asked. She replied, “I’m Ruth your servant. Spread out your robe over your servant, because you are a redeemer.” 10 He said, “May you be blessed by the Lord, my daughter! You have acted even more faithfully than you did at first. You haven’t gone after rich or poor young men. 11 And now, my daughter, don’t be afraid. I’ll do for you everything you are asking. Indeed, my people—all who are at the gate—know that you are a woman of worth. 12 Now, although it’s certainly true that I’m a redeemer, there’s a redeemer who is a closer relative than I am. 13 Stay the night. And in the morning, if he’ll redeem you—good, let him redeem. But if he doesn’t want to redeem you, then—as the Lord lives—I myself will redeem you. Lie down until the morning.” 14 So she lay at his feet until morning. Then she got up before one person could recognize another, for he had said, “No one should know that the woman came to the threshing floor.” 15 He said, “Bring the cloak that you have on and hold it out.” She held it out, and he measured out six measures of barley and placed it upon her. Then she went into town. 16 She came to her mother-in-law, who said, “How are you, my daughter?” So Ruth told her everything the man had done for her. 17 She said, “He gave me these six measures of barley, for he said to me, ‘Don’t go away empty-handed to your mother-in-law.’” 18 “Sit tight, my daughter,” Naomi replied, “until you know how it turns out. The man won’t rest until he resolves the matter today.”

V. PRAYER

Spend some time sharing prayer requests with each other. As the small group leader, we ask that you do two things:

1. write them down
2. ask someone to pray

IV. CHALLENGE

One of the hardest things to do is ask for help. So your challenge this week is to ask for help this week. If there is something you are struggling with, big or small, reach out and ask for help. Be ready to share about this experience next week.

Be prepared to share about this next week.

III. DISCUSSION

- Have you ever been so desperate to make something happen that you were even willing to do things you knew you shouldn’t? What was that experience like?
- Why do you think desperation has that effect on us?
- If our English translations of scripture are wrong and Naomi did in fact instruct Ruth to have a sexual advance towards Boaz, does it change anything about this story for you? Explain.
- If this translation is true, it tells us that Ruth was so desperate for help that she was willing to do whatever was necessary to turn her life around. What we realize though, is that instead of putting herself in that situation, all she needed to do was ask for help. Why is it so hard to ask for help sometimes?
- How can you help others know that you are able to provide help and in so doing, helping to keep people from desperate measures?

