

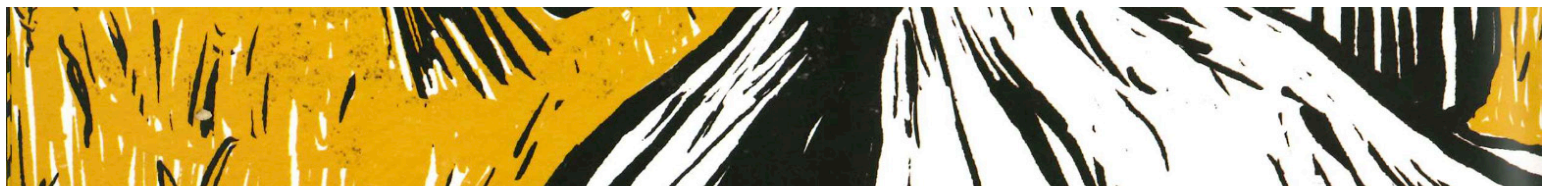


MAYFAIRKIDS

JESUS IS OUR KINSMAN AND REDEEMER



“WHO IS JESUS?” FAMILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE - Week 16, December 3



JESUS IS OUR KINSMAN REDEEMER

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins,
in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us.

EPHESIANS 1:7-8

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ave you ever been really hungry? I mean really, really hungry? Today most of us can get the food we need if our belly starts to rumble, but that was not always the case in Bible times. If there was no rain, there was no food.

This is what happened to a woman named Naomi. She lived in Bethlehem, which means “house of bread,” but because of a famine, the “house of bread” was out of bread! She and her family moved to Moab, where they lived among foreign people who worshiped

foreign gods. Sadly, after a time Naomi’s husband died. Her sons married Moabite women, and then both of Naomi’s sons died too. So Naomi was left in a foreign land with only her daughters-in-law.

“Go back to your families,” Naomi said to Orpah and Ruth. She had heard that there was food once again in Israel and she wanted to go home to her people. Orpah agreed and went back to her family, but Ruth loved Naomi and clung to her.

“Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay.

Your people will be my people and your God my God” (Ruth 1:16b). So Ruth and Naomi set out together for Bethlehem.

Ruth and Naomi had each other but not much else. Women in that era often didn’t have opportunities to find jobs or earn a living. Who would care for them? How would they get food? And what had happened to the land that once belonged to Naomi’s husband? Just like us, they had needs that they couldn’t meet on their own.

Well, God loves the poor, and he loves the widows. He provided for them in the laws of the Israelites. One law stated that when the Israelites were collecting the harvest, they must not collect every piece of grain. Those that were dropped and those that were on the corners of the field must be left for the poor. The poor could glean in the fields, which meant they could pick up what was left so they wouldn’t go hungry.

It was the beginning of the barley harvest, and Ruth went to glean in the fields so she and Naomi could eat. She went to the field of Boaz, a kind man who followed the law of God. He took notice of Ruth and was extra kind to her because he had heard how kind she had been to her mother-in-law Naomi. He said to her, “May the LORD repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge” (Ruth

2:12). And then he fed her a meal and made sure she had plenty of grain to glean the rest of the day.

When Ruth got home that night with a giant sack of grain, far more than any normal gleaner, Naomi couldn’t believe her eyes. “Where did you glean today? Blessed be the man who took notice of you!” (Ruth 2:19).

“The name of the man I worked with today is Boaz,” Ruth replied (2:19).

Then Naomi told Ruth that Boaz was one of her close relatives. Remember how God provided for the poor and the widows through his law? The law said that a close relative, or kin, could redeem the family’s property by buying it back as well as marrying the widow of a deceased relative. This would restore honor to the family and allow their name and their line to continue. This was their chance! Was God providing a way for these two women? Ruth must go, Naomi explained. She must ask Boaz to be their kinsman redeemer.

And that’s exactly what Ruth did. Ruth asked Boaz to spread the corner of his garment over her, which was a way of asking for his protection. She was seeking protection under the wings of the Lord, and under the care of Boaz. And Boaz, being the man of God that he was, said yes.

We too need a Kinsman Redeemer. We need to be redeemed—we have a debt of sin we cannot pay. We have been cut off from our perfect home in Eden, and we need someone to bring us back and secure our inheritance. So Jesus became our kin—he became human

like us. Then he redeemed us, canceling our debt on the cross and granting us a heavenly inheritance. As our Kinsman Redeemer, Jesus provides for us, comforts us, restores us, and secures our place in his kingdom and his forever family.



REFLECT

1. What is one way God provided for the poor and the widows in Bible times? See Leviticus 19:9–10.
2. What did Boaz do as the kinsman redeemer?
3. How is Jesus both our kin and our redeemer? See Hebrews 2:11, 17; Romans 8:17; Ephesians 1:4–8.
4. Who was Ruth’s great-grandson? See Ruth 4:21–22.
5. Ruth was a foreigner, and yet she was included in the line of Jesus. Why do you think God included her? What can that teach us?
6. Who else was born in Bethlehem? See Micah 5:2 and Luke 2:4–6.

BIBLE REFERENCE RUTH 1–4; EPHESIANS 1:4–8

KEY VERSE EPHESIANS 1:7–8