

Ruth 3:1-12 & 16-18
International Bible Lesson Study Hints
for Discussion and Thinking Further

Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The ***Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further*** below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class; then, they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible lesson. And/Or, consider giving each student the *International Bible Lesson Study Guide*, which includes the Bible verses to be studied before class and other questions.

1. Do you think Ruth would have made a good wife for Boaz? Why or why not.

Yes. She was an excellent daughter-in-law to Naomi, and she was a hard worker as a poor gleaner to care for Naomi and herself. Most importantly, she had made the true God her God and God’s people her people. Everyone considered her a worthy woman of noble character.

2. Do you think Boaz would have made a good husband for Ruth? Why or why not.

Yes. Boaz cared for his workers, especially the young women who he treated as he would a daughter. Boaz was scrupulous in keeping the moral law of God and especially careful to not ignore the rights of others, especially the kinsman who was nearer to Naomi and Ruth than he was. He gave him the legal right of first refusal. He would treat Ruth right and appreciated her character and loyalty more than any other attributes. He could give her the security she and Naomi needed.

3. In what way did the Law of God provide for the security of childless widows?

The Law of God included provisions for a childless widow to marry a man who was next of kin to her (a kinsman redeemer); thus giving her security and the opportunity to bear children in the name of your first husband, which would also carry on his property rights for the children she bore.

4. What did Boaz mean when he spoke of Ruth's loyalty being better than the first?

That she was willing to go to him as a kinsman redeemer, that she was willing to marry him to carry on the family line of her husband, that she did not seek a husband among the young men she saw in the fields, but would honor and obey the law of God and marry a kinsman

redeemer. She was more loyal to the LORD and to her husband by marrying Boaz under the circumstances as a kinsman redeemer than when she first married Mahlon.

5. What reason did Boaz give Ruth for doing what she asked?

He knew and the whole assembly knew that she was a worthy woman of noble character.

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