

# **life group study guide**

## **LOVE: LOVE CHANGES THE STORY**

**June 24, 2012**



**Bottom Line:** Love steps in to rescue. (Redeemer.)

**Items needed:** Bibles, pens, white board

**Get Started:** (8-10 minutes)

I personally never thought of myself as a kinsman redeemer. I didn't imagine that I would be used to rescue someone from certain peril, or be someone's last chance.

Our family had a desire to adopt – but no definite time table. So, when we got a call asking if we'd be willing to adopt a baby of color, we said yes. Three weeks later, we met our daughter. Yes, three weeks. It was fast, totally inconvenient, and definitely God's plan! Our entire world was thrown into a tale spin, schedules were tossed, the house rearranged by our neighbors, we lived in her birthplace for almost a month because our home study wasn't yet finished, work was delegated, relatives were alerted, legal transactions made, money paid, signatures signed...baby girl given a family, and family given a chance to redeem, share love, life, and Christ's message. This was the biggest opportunity our family has been given to rescue. We said yes...but, it has never felt like we were the ones giving...it has always felt like we've been the ones receiving the blessing.

I wonder if this is how a Kinsman Redeemer felt? Is this how Boaz felt when rescuing Ruth?

**Question: "What is a kinsman redeemer?"**

**Answer:** The kinsman-redeemer is a male relative who, according to various laws of the Pentateuch, had the privilege or responsibility to act on behalf of a relative who was in trouble, danger, or in need. The Hebrew term (*go el*) for kinsman-redeemer designates one who delivers or rescues ([Genesis 48:16](#); [Exodus 6:6](#)) or redeems property or person ([Leviticus 27:9-25](#); [25:47-55](#)). The kinsman who redeems or vindicates a relative is illustrated most clearly in the [book of Ruth](#), where the kinsman-redeemer is Boaz.

Did he see it as an obligation or an opportunity?

Q: What do you think? Why?

**Get the Scoop:** (8-10 minutes)

Read Ruth 4.

Q: What steps do you see Boaz taking in order to redeem Ruth?

Q: He went straight to the center of activity to seal the deal. How do you see his cleverness in this transaction? (4:1-12)

Q: Why was it important to have witnesses to this transaction?

**Dig In:** (12-15 minutes)

Read Ruth 4:11-12.

Q: How would you reword this blessing for today's culture?

Q: How do you see God's plan in this blessing?

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Read Ruth 4:13-15

Q: Who received the glory for this relationship?

Q: How is Ruth portrayed in these verses?

Look over the book of Ruth again.

Q: Trace the journey of Ruth and Naomi from beginning to end

Q: What obstacles did Ruth/Naomi face?

Q: Who did God use to provide for them?

Q: What part did faith play in choices made? (On behalf of Ruth/Naomi, and Boaz?)

Q: What blessing did Ruth receive? Naomi? Boaz?

Q: How was God's eternal plan seen in the journey of Ruth/Naomi?

Read these passages.

Ex. 20:2, Daniel 6:27, Jer. 20:13, Eze. 34:10-12, 22, Hebrews 2:11

Q: Who is seen as Kinsman Redeemer in these passages? How?

## **Take It Home** (10-12 minutes)

God's hand was seen in the journey of Ruth and Naomi and Boaz. The Kinsman Redeemer rescued the destitute and created a family legacy that leads to Christ.

Q: Can we say the same of our own families?

Q: Are we looking for opportunities to redeem? To rescue?

Q: Are you being intentional in creating a family legacy that points to Christ?

Q: How so?

Q: How do you sense God prompting you to change the story of your own family? Of someone else's?

I am humbled beyond words when I realize that God used our family to bring a little girl to a safe place to live, be loved, and ultimately to learn about the ultimate Source of Love and Redemption. God's presence has changed her life forever. I'm challenged daily to be intentional in creating and living out a legacy that points to Christ. God can use us in a rescue effort – and sometimes, without it feeling like a hardship for us. The opportunity to love, be loved, and share Christ overtakes the challenges and the hurdles presented in a rescue-opportunity. Not only does He use it to change the life of the rescued, but the lives of the rescuers.

Q: How have you been changed because an opportunity to change the life of someone?

Q: How have you been blessed?

Q: How intentional are you in creating a legacy that points to Christ?

Q: What needs to change in your legacy-focus for your family/relationships? (Example, I often find myself running through my days with my kids w/o a plan that focuses on Him...)

Q: How is your household connecting to God on a daily basis?

*(idea: Our kids do a personal devotion/study time in the morning. Daily passages are posted on the refrigerator. They read the passage and answer these NEAT questions: N: What New thing did you find in this passage? E: What did you find Exciting? A: What question(s) do you want to Ask? T: What will you Take away and apply to your own life? Although they do the study on their own in the morning, we discuss it at bedtime as a family.)*

Q: What's worked well for you in this regard?

Q: What challenges do you have? Or what challenges have you overcome?

Q: What changes would you like to make in order to live with a Christ-legacy mindset?

## **Prayer time** (5-10 minutes)

Write a letter to God about your desire to love Him deeply, be a rescuer if asked, live a life that leads and leaves a legacy...Be honest about your concerns, challenges, and questions.

Leader, close in prayer.