

# Old Testament Survey

*Ruth*



God in every chapter of your story

## Main Point

**The best plans are best planned with God**





**One day Ruth's mother-in-law Naomi said to her, "My daughter, I must find a home for you, where you will be well provided for. Now Boaz, with whose women you have worked, is a relative of ours. Tonight he will be winnowing barley on the threshing floor.**

Ruth 3:1-2 NIV



**Wash, put on perfume, and get dressed in 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. 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."**

Ruth 3:3-4 NIV





**“I will do whatever you say,” Ruth answered. So she went down to the threshing floor and did everything her mother-in-law told her to do.**

Ruth 3:5-6 NIV



## Tell The Story - Come Up With The Plan

- ❑ Naomi wants Ruth taken care of
- ❑ Boaz becomes part of the plan
- ❑ Ruth needs to proposition Boaz to be the kinsman redeemer



## Where Is God?

- ❑ He's already been setting this up
- ❑ Ruth and Boaz have already met
- ❑ Ruth's agreement







**Action Step**  
**Get Stacy**  
**on board**

**Responsibility**  
**Shared with**  
**the kids**

**Goal**  
**Watch Soccer**  
**Game**

**Resources**  
**Past**  
**Experience**

**Outcome**  
**Watch game**  
**in peace**





## God In Our Story - The Plan

- ❑ God is a facilitator
- ❑ Wait on God
- ❑ Our pride gets in the way
- ❑ Our fear gets in the way



**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. In the middle of the night something startled the man; he turned—and there was a woman lying at his feet!**

Ruth 3:7-8 NIV





**“Who are you?” he asked. “I am your servant Ruth,” she said. “Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a guardian-redeemer of our family.” “The LORD bless you, my daughter,” he replied. “This kindness is greater than that which you showed earlier: You have not run after the younger men, whether rich or poor.**

Ruth 3:9-10 NIV





**And now, my daughter, don't be afraid. I will do for you all you ask. All the people of my town know that you are a woman of noble character. Although it is true that I am a guardian-redeemer of our family, there is another who is more closely related than I.**

Ruth 3:11-12 NIV



**Stay here for the night, and in the morning if he wants to do his duty as your guardian-redeemer, good; let him redeem you. But if he is not willing, as surely as the LORD lives I will do it. Lie here until morning.”**

Ruth 3:13 NIV





## Tell The Story - Carry Out The Plan

- ❑ Ruth goes to carry out the plan
- ❑ Ruth shows her intentions
- ❑ Boaz responds favorably to Ruth
- ❑ A matter must be settled first





# Where Is God?

- ❑ Ruth's safety
- ❑ Boaz's response



# God In Our Story - Carry Out The Plan

- ❑ We have to act
- ❑ Act how God wants us to
- ❑ God will help you through



**So she lay at his feet until morning, but got up before anyone could be recognized; and he said, “No one must know that a woman came to the threshing floor.” 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 placed the bundle on her. Then he went back to town.**

Ruth 3:14-15 NIV





**When Ruth came to her mother-in-law, Naomi asked, “How did it go, my daughter?” Then she told her everything Boaz had done for her and added, “He gave me these six measures of barley, saying, ‘Don’t go back to your mother-in-law empty-handed.’” Then Naomi said, “Wait, my daughter, until you find out what happens. For the man will not rest until the matter is settled today.”**

Ruth 3:16-18 NIV



## Tell The Story - The Results

- ❑ Ruth left before being recognized
- ❑ Boaz sends Ruth home with food
- ❑ Naomi tells Ruth to be patient and the answer will come



## Where Is God?

- ❑ The matter will get resolved
- ❑ The patience shown by Naomi and Ruth





## God In Our Story - The Results

- ❑ Let God do His thing
- ❑ The plan may not be over when we think
- ❑ Let the results be God's



## Conclusion

- ❑ Bring God into your plans
- ❑ Act when God calls
- ❑ Let God do His thing



## Audio file

[Ruth 3 God In Our Plans Audio.mp3](#)

## Transcript

All right, so we all have plans. We talked about the best plans you came up with. If you didn't notice we were playing country music during that discussion question. And the song it's called Big, Big plans, it's. Great country. Stop. Boogie country music, Julie. Hey man, the song is called big. Big plans by Chris Lane. Ryan and I were both singing it, by the way. And the whole point of the song is he's got these big, big plans with his girlfriend. He's talking about all the things he's going to do. He's planning to ask her to marry him. He's falling in love. He's planning out how awesome their lives are gonna be. Now all of us have made big or small plans in our lives. We just talked about some of them. Some of them are these big deals, you know, proposals or vacations or big trips. Some are even small. Maybe you plan to. You can do to go to the grocery store. I write that one out my shopping list and how I'm going to go about it. Sometimes plans work out great, sometimes not so much as Ellie and I just communicated on that. We have a lot of plans that don't go the way we want. That happens how often, though, do you ask God just for his plan? How often do you invite God into the plans that you are making? Because God needs to be a part of our plans and we want him to be present in our plans, right? Think of it. If we took this country song and said when you got some big, big plans, remember you got a big, big God, we could turn right and I could turn that song into a worship song in about 10 minutes. If we tried, we won't do it. We'll spare you that.

Right.

Maybe we'll do it. I don't. Know when we're sitting at a coffee shop sometime. We'll write it out, but.

I don't like it.

If I sing it well, I can. I can sing with a twang. Don't worry. But as we're gonna talk about today, we're going to talk about plans. Mostly life plans. No weather plans for your life are big or small. Just planning out your week or something big. We're going to talk about that today and the point is this, the best plans are best planned with God, the best plans. Press planned with God now. Why are we talking about plans? Well, because today in the book of Ruth, Naomi comes up with a plan for Ruth. Quick recap, if you haven't been with us or you need a little refresher, we have a woman. Named Naomi. She has a husband and two sons. They live in the land of Judah. There's a famine in the land, so there's no food. They travel to nearby. Moab to find food at some point her husband dies. So then her two sons marry Moabite women. Women from Moab. So her two sons marry these two women, named Orpa and Ruth. Tragically, then, her sons die. So now we just have Naomi. And Orpa and Ruth's famine ends in Judah. Naomi makes the call. Hey, I'm going to go back to Judah. She wants her daughters in law to go back to her family, their own families and not stay with her. Orpa says Yep, OK, I'll do that. She goes back to her family. Ruth says, Nope, I'm coming with you, Naomi, and goes back to Judah with Ruth. That was week. One last week we talked about how then Ruth went and gleaned in the fields what this means is she went and basically picked up grain from the ground. That harvesters either missed or that fell down. It was a practice that was known at this time, and it was a way for foreigners or for poor people to get



food, so it was accepted. It was a good practice just so happened. Just so happened that the field Ruth went to glean in was owned by a man named Boaz, who was in the family line of Naomi, which means he could kind of what's called redeem the estate and Redeem Ruth, which would kind of make him as a provider or a helper for Ruth and Naomi. So that's what we're up to. All right, each week what we've done is kind of see where God is present in that story and then present in that story in our own lives the relationships in week one, opportunities in week two and today is plans. So we'll do it just how we've been doing it, we're going to read through the story, see where God is and where God is in that part of the story. So let's kick it off with Ruth. Three, we'll start with verses one through 6. It'll be right up here. Behind me there. If you want to follow along in the Bibles on your tables. It is bookmarked there as well. So let's take a look. Route 3 versus. One day, Ruth's mother-in-law, Naomi, said to her. My daughter, I must find a home for you where you will be well provided for now Boaz, with whose women you have worked, is a relative of ours. Tonight he will be winnowing barley on the threshing floor, wash, put on perfume and get dressed in 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. 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. I will do whatever you say, Ruth answered. So she went down to the threshing floor and did everything her mother told her to do. Will stop there. So what's happening? Naomi wants to make sure Ruth is provided for. So here's where Boaz really becomes. Central to the plan, he's a family member. He's a kinsman Redeemer, which means he can redeem kind of this. State and he all around. He's a good guy. We learned about him last week. He seems to be upstanding in the community. People seem to like him and Ruth is part of the family too. So what Naomi tells Ruth is that he's going to be winnowing barley on the threshing floor. This was a process of how you separated out the good grain from like the husks and everything. What they would actually do is take the grain. Throw it up in the air against kind of a stiff breeze so the lighter not so good grain would blow away and the heavier good stuff would just fall to the ground, so that's what they're doing. This is the process. Then and it would be kind of a long process and then you want to guard that grain. So that's why Boaz is probably there at night. So Naomi says, OK, he's going to be there. So I want you to do is basically look and be at your best. She tells her to anoint herself to bathe. These were not like super regular practices at this time, so the fact that Naomi's telling Ruth to do all this is like you're going to kind. Put yourself at your absolute best and you're gonna go. You're gonna wait until he falls asleep, then you're gonna uncover his feet and lie down there. Now we don't really know exactly why this is the practice, but it kind of seems like it might have been a known or customary practice, especially because she says once you do that and Boaz wakes up. He'll tell you what to do. So somehow in there it's known what's going to happen. But basically the plan is for Ruth to go and Proposition Boaz to redeem her as the Kinsman Redeemer, take the role of that and affect both Ruth and Naomi by providing for them, being there for their lives. So this is kind of the plan that's been hatched by Naomi. So where's God? They don't really. Talk about God here. But I think he's in the whole setup. This plan actually kind of makes sense. Boaz is the kinsman. Boaz is a solid guy. He's an upright guy. Ruth went and gleaned in his field. God's been working on this for a while now. Ruth is still at the age where she can marry. Could marry bullies, could have children, which is a big part of this to carry on the family line. So this is all just being set up. I also think God is in the agreement Ruth has, Ruth tells Naomi. Yeah, I'll do whatever you say. Ruth may have no idea. Remember Ruth? She may have no idea about this practice or what's going on. This is her life and her future, but she still agrees to this plan that Naomi came up with. So Naomi hatches a plan. So let's talk about making a plan, right. I have actually made a plan for something today back. You can throw this up there. Have a little graphic. About what

my plan is for today, the goal is to watch. A soccer game. Forward Madison soccer club. They start their season today. They play on the road. I wanna watch. So I'm wearing my stuff today, alright? This is a big deal for me. I want to watch the game, so I had to come up with some different ways to go about this. I know this seems ridiculous, but as we've discussed, I love making plans, so here we go. I want to watch the game. We have to have an action step so it's get Stacy on board and need my wife support now. Initially, she wasn't gonna be home this afternoon, so when I was patching this plan now she will. But she's totally on board with this and need resources to make a plan. Past experience, I have pulled something like this off before. Who is responsible? Who's responsible to make this work right? It's shared with the kids. I need the kids here for this, right? We have to all get along for a little while. They have to eat lunch and not fight for a couple hours until we can get to the time when the game is going to start and they can have their screen time, whatever they're going to do while Daddy watches the game. And then the A desired. Outcome or an outcome I want to watch the game in blissful peace and enjoyment. I'm facilitating this entire plan. I have confidence that will work. Like I said, I've done like this before, but the point is to make a plan. And here's the thing. When it comes to our story and our actual life plans here. We have to realize that God is a facilitator in that process. It's not just us. I don't necessarily know that I need God to facilitate this one. If he's on board. With me, that's great. But we need to have life plans that involve God. He needs to be a facilitator. All right. Actually kind of laid out a plan for his apostles before he went to heaven. We can trace this back to acts chapter one. So this is where Jesus is with his apostles. He's already been crucified. He's been buried. He's risen. He's about to ascend into heaven, and he tells his apostles. Hey, stay here. They're infusystem. Wait for the Holy Spirit. Wait for it to come and they're like, well, is this one you're gonna, like, redeem the whole Kingdom and do all this stuff. And he's like, that's not for you to know. You're not gonna know the time or the place, but stay here. You'll receive power when. The Holy Spirit. Comes on them. So Jesus even lays out a plan for his apostles, and they listen. They let Jesus be the main. Now, why do we sometimes struggle with letting God be the main planner? I do. I struggle with this. Let's look at a couple of ideas. I think the first one is pride. And for me, it's because I think I'm actually really. Good at planning now. Others might not agree with me. Maybe my wife doesn't, I don't know, but I think I'm good at it. I actually really like to plan. I enjoy it. The problem is I just want to do it myself. Alright, I want to do it. On my way I want to do it on my timing. I don't ask God all the time. I don't always listen for God or wait for God. My pride takes over. I don't let God work it out in his timing. That first song we sang this morning, so it's the same God who's never late, is working all things out. God's timing. Is gonna be better than mine. That's a better facilitator than I could be. And then on the. Other side of that pride might be fear. Fear can get in the way of why we don't let God into our planning. What if I don't like what God has planned for me? If I'm not comfortable with it, what if I straight up just don't wanna do it in about 5 or six weeks, we're gonna do a little series on the book of Jonah that's called when you just don't. Want to because this happens. Because if I plan it, my plan can go the way I want. I think I'm gonna get the results I want. I can be comfortable with it and it'll be all good, but the struggle is to make God part of the planning process, to listen for him, to invite him in, to lay down the pride and push back the fear and let God in so we make a plan when we get God involved. Left the next step is to carry it out. That's what's going to happen here. And Ruth, let's say Ruth 37 through 13 and see. How this plan gets carried out verse seven, 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 in the middle of the night. Something startled the man. He turned, and there was a woman lying. At his feet. Who are you? I am your servant, Ruth. He said spread. The corner of your garment over me. Since you

are my guardian, Redeemer of our family. The Lord bless you, my daughter, he replied. This kindness is greater than that which you showed earlier. You've not run after younger men, whether rich or poor, and now my daughter, don't be afraid. I will do for you all you ask all the people of my town know that you are a. Woman of noble character. Although it's true that I'm a guardian Redeemer of our family, there is another who is more closely related than I. Stay here for the night and in the morning. If he wants to do his duty as Guardian Redeemer. Good, let him redeem you. But if he's not willing, as surely as the Lord lives, I will do it. Lie here until morning. So she lay at his feet until morning. But got up before anyone could be recognized and he said no one must know that a woman came to the threshing floor. He also said bring me the shawl you are wearing and hold it out. When she did so, he poured into it 6 measures of barley and placed the bundle on her. Then he went back to town. We will stop there. All right, so. It's harvest time. This is a time of feasting and enjoyment, and Boaz is there on the threshing floor and eventually he goes to sleep. Basically just goes and lays down at the end of a heap of a pile of grain. He's like, this is my grain. I'm gonna go sleep here. So Ruth comes in and starts to carry out the plan. She goes and she uncovers his feet and at some point he startled and he wakes up. We don't know what startles him, but he startled. He wakes up and then he sees a woman he doesn't know who, just chilling at his feet. He's like. Who are you? And she says I'm your servant. She shows some humility and says servant Ruth. She identifies herself, puts herself in a place of humility. Kind of says I am your servant, Ruth. Then, she says, spread the garment over me. This is an ancient tradition of how you might claim a widow for yourself. Ruth is showing her intention. So now Boaz would be clear on what is she here for? And he responds actually fairly quickly. He blesses her. He really he thanks her. Because she could have gone after somebody else. She could have tried to marry somebody younger, somebody richer as anybody. But he knows she stayed in the family line. She stayed traditional. So Boaz is like I'm in. I want to do this right. He's like you, Ruth. You're known as somebody that's upright. Somebody that's noble here in the community. Basically, her standing as a foreigner, which they weren't always looked upon very well. That's gone. She's just seen as a good person in the community. He's like, let's do this. But then he says a little complicated. There is somebody that is a closer kinsman than Boaz. Basically, this would have to kind of go in order. So there's somebody more closely related to Naomi and the family, then Boaz. So he says I'm going to talk to this guy tomorrow if he wants to do it, then I'll accept that. But if he doesn't, then I will. Do it so and he says I'll handle that tomorrow. You stay the night. It's dark out. Could be dangerous. Going back, he's like, don't. Go back now. So Ruth has carried out the plan. Where's God in the carrying out of this plan? I think first in Ruth safety, she's a woman. She kind of has to conceal herself completely. She goes out at night all by herself to go to this place, but he keeps her safe going there and she's actually basically going think about it to surprise somebody in the middle of the night. Who knows what this knee jerk reaction would have been? I remember when Jeremiah was like 2 1/2 years old. And I'm dead asleep. Kind of with my head like this and I hear something and I wake up and he's standing about this far from me, dead silent. And I thought I had a heart attack. I think many kids have done this to their parents, right, Boaz, who knows what his reaction is going to be, but that is also where God is his response, his reaction. He's favorable to this. He doesn't know who this person is at first, and then once he hears who it is and what she wants, he responds favorably. He's already been incredibly generous to Ruth and her family. We talked about that last week. She's in essence asking for even more, but he's receptive, he's caring and he's generous again. God was present when this plan was carried out. Here's a big thing about it, though, as Ruth had to act, we have to act in our plans. There's an old illustration or anecdote. Where am I? Then that he lives in a city and it starts to rain a lot and it's going to flood. And they know the flood's coming. He's standing kind of on the



bottom of the building, he says. God save me from this flood that's coming. Well, the truck drives by and says, hey, get in, I'll drive you away from the city and to safety says no, no. God will save me, flood waters, keep rising. He goes up to a higher window. Now of a sudden a boat comes by and this high water. He says, jump in, jump in. He says no, no, no. God will save me. God will save me. Keeps rising. He goes up to the roof. Now a helicopter comes by, says just jump in. We'll fly you out to safety. No, no, no. God will save me. God will save me. Well, the man drowns. He goes to heaven and he asks God, God, why didn't you save me? And God says I sent you. A truck a. Boat and a helicopter. Why didn't you get in? He didn't act. We have to act in plans. We have to play a part. If we go back to acts we just talked about how Jesus told the Apostles to wait. Well then in acts Chapter 2, the Holy Spirit comes as promised, right? And the apostles, when they receive the Holy Spirit, they don't just sit. There and say whoa. Peter gets up and does something. Peter acts, get it? He acts in the book of Acts, See what happens there. This is great. He carries out the plan he gives his banger of a sermon in acts two. He acts on it. We will probably have to have some type of participation in God's plans. We're not just spectators. Ruth had to participate in this plan and it might be big or a small thing. It might be comfortable. It might be uncomfortable. But we have to kind of act how God wants us to or do what God is asking us to do in that plant. He might use our voice, our passions, our style. But the temptation can be to try to make it even a little more about us and less about God. We're not supposed to do that. We just act in the way God wants us to. Another temptation might be to say I can't do that. God wants me to do that. I can't. I'm not good enough. I'm not qualified enough that is not for me. There's a saying that I've heard kind of in like leadership training so many times it says God doesn't call the qualified. He qualifies the called he will call you to something and then make sure you can. Handle it. If God calls you to something no matter what it is, he will be with you in that and help you through it. We want to do what God has called us to do and believe that God's there with us earlier this week and it was Monday. Ryan and I were sitting at a coffee shop times. We'll get together and work, and I think he's like mid story and he's looking kind of behind me and he's like. Ohh no, I turn look at what's happening. Well, there's a car trying to back in. To a spot. And this car has perfectly split the line. Of two spots. Right. And they pull out and it's here in the ground. We've seen this right and tries again. No, go tries again. We're 3-4 times and it just can't do it. It's having a heck of a time, but it cannot park in one stall trying to back in. The car didn't need to back in, just pull right in. There are times when God, God will say just park in that spot, but we have to make it about ourselves and try to back it in. We don't need to all the time, but by the other side of it, if God says back the car into the stall, he'll be the backup camera in your car. All right, so don't do more than what God's calling us to do. But if it seems too hard, God will be there to help you through it. All right. The point is this action, we will have to act in God's plans most of the time, right? So we can \*\*\*\* this plan. We come up with the plan, we know we're gonna act. Well, now we gotta know results. What happens? Let's look at the last part of this Chapter, Route 314 through 18. All right. Let's see here. When Ruth came back to her mother-in-law, Naomi asked how did it go? My daughter. Then she told her everything Boaz had done for her and added he gave me these six measures of barley, saying don't go back to your mother-in-law empty handed, Naomisaid. Wait, my daughter until you find out what happens. For the man will not rest until the matter is set. All right, so here's what kind of happens Ruth leaves before she's recognized. She doesn't want to be recognized. They didn't want rumors to swirl or anything that could jeopardize this going on. She's got good standing in the community. Boaz needs to kind of in essence make a business transaction with this other man. So they want this to all be above. But he doesn't let Ruth leave empty handed. He gives her a whole bunch of food, and this is a generous amount. Ruth is not gonna go back, huh? Harry and Naomi won't be hungry,

so Ruth goes back with all this food and reports to Naomi, she tells Naomi what happened. And they only seems pretty pleased by this, she says. Just be patient. Boaz is gonna handle it today. Pause is gonna take care of this. And this is actually the last time we're going to hear from Ruth or Naomi in this book. So where's God? And the fact that this is going to get settled somebody. We'll do it. We hear that from Boaz. Either this other kinsman we'll take on the role. And if he won't? Boaz, we'll do it. Ruth and Naomi did their part. Now they just have to wait. On the result and we all want to know the results of our plans. Last week was on Saint Patrick's. Day and at school, Jeremiah my 7 year old son. In first grade, they must have read the book how to catch a leprechaun. As classic kids book. So he comes home and says I want to catch a leprechaun tonight. It's like OK, this, sure. Or not. OK, so he gets. But he he like me as a planner, so he gets out the shoe box and he wants to make it into like in essence, a house that he'll keep the leprechaun in. So he devises it and there's like little different rooms because there might be more than one. Leprechaun I don't. Know so he puts it in his room, kind of next to his bed, and he and his sister. Both get some coins from the little Piggy Bank, cause leprechauns apparently like coins and puts them in there to attract them. Then he gets one of his dinosaurs that actually makes noise and puts it next to the little house. So if the leprechaun comes, it'll make the noise and wake him up in his. Finally, though he's like, I don't know if I gotta scare the leprechaun myself, he goes so far as to go to sleep with one of his plastic toy swords next to him, so he is planned. Out he is ready to go. But then he fell asleep. Mom goes in and messes with the coins and leaves a little note says oh. Better luck next year. His plan? Didn't work out for him. All right. He had this great plan in his. Mind, he's like oh. I actually thought he was gonna be more. Upset than he was, he handled it pretty well. Our plans don't always go how we want. We have to kind of understand that when they're not our plans, the results may not be our results. We have to trust God in an essence. Let God do his thing and like the the temptation can be to think. OK, that didn't go how I wanted. Did I do it wrong? Was God really there? Did God really call me to do that because it didn't go the way I thought it was gonna go. Many times we may think the plan is over, but it's really not. God's not done. Maybe we missed the job opportunity. A conversation didn't go as we planned and event didn't feel like it was as big success we wanted, but we have to let God be God and the results be his. It's hard, it's not easy. But that's kind of what he wants. From us. We will all make plans, big or small. Monday's coming tomorrow. It's unfortunate as it is, Monday comes every week. Maybe you are thinking. OK, I gotta plan out my week starting today or tomorrow. Even if it's. Not going to be a huge week. Try inviting God in to planning your week. Maybe he doesn't have a huge thing he's gonna do this week. Maybe he does, I don't know. But bring him in. And then think about, am I willing to act when he calls me to? Am I willing to do things the way he wants me to and what he wants me to? And then think about how you're looking at the results. Especially when there may be a little different from what you anticipated. You know, if the end of the week doesn't go how you expect. Did maybe God's not done yet? Maybe he's got more going on. God's plan and his process are better than ours. When we let him do his thing, we draw closer to him and our relationship with him grows, which is always a good thing. So remember, when you got those big, big plans, you have that big, big. So let those plans be God, because the best plans are best planned with God. Got to thank you for this morning and got another chapter of Ruth where we can see how your hand was on it. And God, I thank you that in in whatever your plans are for us and the plans that you have that that you're present with us and that even when they seem scary when they seem bigger, when they just seem mundane God but that you were with us in those plans. So I pray God that as we we make plans for things for our lives, God for the week or whatever it is. That you would be so present

in those that we would invite you in and that you would be loud with us. So we would know and hear from you and those plans and we thank you that you have those plans for us your name.