



# Ruth

## Session 3: The Go'el?

### 1. Background reading / concepts:

#### a. gleaning

Leviticus 19:9 and 23:22.

How does this ancient way of caring for the poor compare to contemporary ways of caring for the poor?

#### b. Moabite

In the course of the story, Ruth is referred to as a Moabite thirteen times.

What does the story teller intend in repeating this about her so often?

#### c. "spread your cloak."

Ezekiel 16:8

Deuteronomy 22:30

Ruth 2:11-12, Ruth 3:9

What do you think the story teller is up to in using the same Hebrew word in 2:11 (translated as "wing") and 3:9 (translated as "cloak")?

2. Describe how Naomi and Ruth might have felt about what happened on the threshing floor. Why?
  
3. What do you think of Naomi and Ruth for concocting and carrying out the events on the threshing floor?
  
4. What do you think Boaz means when he tells Ruth that the “last instance of your loyalty is better than the first?”
  
5. Keeping in mind the circumstances of the characters and the story up to this point, how do you think the ancient Israelite hearers of this story might have reacted to the threshing floor scene?
  
6. What do *you* think happened on the threshing floor?
  
7. What are the implications of this session’s material for your personal life? Your spiritual journey? For your local faith community?

