

1. What are some of the confusing elements Dr. Wolfe lifts up regarding Elimelech's land, go'el, levirate marriage, and Boaz's negotiation with the "nearest next of kin"?
2. The witnesses at the gate have high expectations for this union (4.11-12). What do the examples they give say about their hopes?
3. What role do "the women" of Bethlehem play in the book of Ruth? (See Ruth 1:19 and 4:14-17). Who fulfills a similar role in society today?
4. Describe the significance of the "seven sons" blessing for Naomi (see Ruth 4.15)
5. Why would the teller of Ruth's story include Perez in the genealogy of David? (Ruth 4:18 and Genesis 38:29)

6. What does including Ruth in Jesus' genealogy say about the intentions of the author of Matthew? (Matthew 1:5)

7. What point(s) do you think the book of Ruth might be making about foreigners?

8. Looking at the story of Ruth as a whole, who ends up better off or worse off than they were at the beginning of the story?

9. What are the implications of this session's material for your personal life? Your spiritual journey? For your local faith community?

