

# SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

## The Integrity of Romance

Questions written by Pastor Miles McPherson

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Would you like to lead or host a small group?** Our next Small Group Training begins February and these groups will begin in April, so mark your calendar. If you'd like to be on our mailing list regarding Small Group events and trainings, email [carolyn.york@therocksandiego.org](mailto:carolyn.york@therocksandiego.org).

**For all other Rock events,** please go <http://www.therocksandiego.org/eventcalendar/>.

## MINISTRY PRAYER REQUESTS

*As "small groupies," you are the heart and soul of this ministry--who better than you to lift up the Small Group Ministry in prayer? So, it's up to you, you can spend time in your small group praying for these things (weekly or occasionally), or you can pray during the week on your own time. And if you'd like to be added to our Pastor's Prayer Team, just let us know. Mark Collins, the Small Group Pastor, would love your prayers! We send out a monthly email of his personal and ministry prayer requests. Just contact Andy Rodgers at [andy.rodgers@therocksandiego.org](mailto:andy.rodgers@therocksandiego.org). May God work through your prayers mightily!*

**Reaching the Lost:** Please pray that God would continue to draw the lost both to the Rock and our small groups.

**Current Small Group Leaders/Small Groups:** Pray for a season of refreshment for our small group leaders during this holiday season and fresh vision for the upcoming year as they continue to pour into their small groups.

**Potential Small Group Leaders:** 40 people attended our recent Small Group Leadership Training. Can you keep them in your prayers? The goal is to have them start their groups in January.

**Small Group Staff:** Due to our current staffing situation, can you pray that God would give us His wisdom in how to spend our time and efforts?

**The Rock Body:** Please pray that our church would continue to grow in relationship with the Lord and follow in His ways. *Just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.* Colossians 2:6-7

## MEMORY VERSE

*Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her and she will watch over you. Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it will cost all you have, get understanding. Proverbs 4:6-7*

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS – THE INTEGRITY OF ROMANCE

O.K. guys it's up to us. God placed the responsibility of the "integrity of the romance" between men and women squarely upon the man's shoulders. In other words, men, it's our God-given responsibility to treat the opposite sex in such a way that we "earn" the love of our potential mates and keep the love of our wives. Just as Jesus self-sacrificially gave His life for the bride (His church) so we (men) have the responsibility for leading in the integrity of our relationships.

Boaz is an excellent example of a man who displayed "romantic integrity." He did not take advantage of a young girl who had little to no rights in his culture. Boaz had many opportunities to coerce Ruth to compromise her own character, just to survive. In Jewish society in Ruth's time it was understood that when a man died, his nearest blood relative would marry the widow to continue the family's name. This person was called a "kinsman-redeemer." Because he was not her closest relative, and the fact she was from Moab, Boaz could have easily decided not to redeem her, without losing standing in the community. In fact, because of the prejudice of the Hebrews, Boaz risked losing in the "court of public opinion" in the community by deciding to follow God's law and his heart.

### *Getting Started*

1. If your mother set you up with a blind date, what kind of person would she choose? How would her choice differ from yours? Why?

### *Digging Deeper*

2. Read Ruth Chapter 3 in its entirety.
  - a. What are your first impressions of this story?
    - Sounds like a Harlequin Romance novel
    - One bizarre blind date
    - Sounds like a mushy part of a movie that I love
    - Sounds like a mushy part of a movie that I despise
3. Read Ruth 3:1-5.
  - a. What instructions does Naomi give to Ruth? What do you think were Naomi's motives in sending her to Boaz? Do you think that Naomi was being manipulative?

b. Would you have followed her instructions? Why or why not?

4. Read Ruth 3:6-8.

a. What factors could have influenced Boaz to mistreat Ruth in this vulnerable situation? (See Numbers 25:1 that refers to Moab's culture).

b. What's the big deal about uncovering Boaz's feet? (Uncovering Boaz's feet was not a sexually forward move, but probably a way to ensure he would wake up on a cold night).

c. When you read this story for the first time, did you think maybe a sexual discretion might have taken place? Why? (One thing's for sure, the Bible merely reports what happens. On many other occasions it plainly reported sexual sin when it occurred).

5. Read Ruth 3:9-11.

a. According to ancient customs, Ruth's actions and words were apparently a request for marriage. How would you have felt if you were Boaz?

b. If you were one of Ruth's best friends, what would you have said to her in response to her actions? If you were one of Boaz's best friends what advice would you give him?

6. Read Ruth 3:12-14.

a. In most cases the kinsman-redeemer received some sort of payment in land or money for the widows they redeemed. Ruth in her sad circumstances had nothing to offer Boaz. Why do you think Boaz offered the right of redemption to someone else? Why do you think he was hesitant?

b. When it comes to your relationships with the opposite sex, how have you determined God's will when it comes to getting involved romantically?

7. Read Ruth 3:15-18.

- a. How have you been “well provided for” by other people? By God? How can you express your thanks and gratitude?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b. How has your small group acted as a kinsman-redeemer in your life? Spend some time thanking God for your group of friends!

***Bringing it Home***

8. In the story of your life right now, what would you like most to have?

- A kinsman that could provide for me.
- Someone to share life with.
- More kindness and compassion.
- More integrity in my relationships.
- The Lord’s blessing in my life.
- A little more romance.
- Other\_\_\_\_\_

9. How can the group pray for you and any needs you may have?