Lesson Text: Ruth 3:1-6, 8-12, 16-18

King James Version (KJV)

I. PREPARING TO MEET BOAZ (Ruth 3:1-6)

1. Then Naomi her mother in law said unto her, My daughter, shall I not seek rest for thee, that it may be well with thee?

2. And now is not Boaz of our kindred, with whose maidens thou wast? Behold, he winnoweth barley to night in the threshing floor.

3. Wash thyself therefore, and anoint thee, and put thy raiment upon thee, and get thee down to the floor: but make not thyself known unto the man, until he shall have done eating and drinking.

4. And it shall be, when he lieth down, that thou shalt mark the place where he shall lie, and thou shalt go in, and uncover his feet, and lay thee down; and he will tell thee what thou shalt do.

5. And she said unto her, All that thou sayest unto me I will do.

6. And she went down unto the floor, and did according to all that her mother in law bade her.
II. RUTH MEETS BOAZ (RUTH 3:8-12)

8. And it came to pass at midnight, that the man was afraid, and turned himself: and, behold, a woman lay at his feet.

9. And he said, Who art thou? And she answered, I am Ruth thine handmaid: spread therefore thy skirt over thine handmaid; for thou art a near kinsman.

10. And he said, Blessed be thou of the Lord, my daughter: for thou hast shewed more kindness in the latter end than at the beginning, inasmuch as thou followedst not young men, whether poor or rich.

11. And now, my daughter, fear not; I will do to thee all that thou requirest: for all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman.

12. And now it is true that I am thy near kinsman: howbeit there is a kinsman nearer than I.

III. RUTH REPORTS BACK TO NAOMI (RUTH 3:16-18)

16. And when she came to her mother in law, she said, Who art thou, my daughter? And she told her all that the man had done to her.
17. And she said, These six measures of barley gave he me; for he said to me, Go not empty unto thy mother in law.

18. Then said she, Sit still, my daughter, until thou know how the matter will fall: for the man will not be in rest, until he have finished the thing this day.

New International Version (NIV)

I. PREPARING TO MEET BOAZ (Ruth 3:1-6)

1. 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.

2. Now Boaz, with whose women you have worked, is a relative of ours. Tonight he will be winnowing barley on the threshing floor.

3. 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.

4. 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.”
5. “I will do whatever you say,” Ruth answered.

6. So she went down to the threshing floor and did everything her mother-in-law told her to do.

II. RUTH MEETS BOAZ (RUTH 3:8-12)

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

9. “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.”

10. “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.

11. 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.

12. Although it is true that I am a guardian-redeemer of our family, there is another who is more closely related than I.

III. RUTH REPORTS BACK TO NAOMI (RUTH 3:16-18)
16. 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.

17. and added, “He gave me these six measures of barley, saying, ‘Don’t go back to your mother-in-law empty-handed.’”

18. Then Naomi said, “Wait, my daughter, until you find out what happens. For the man will not rest until the matter is settled today.”

PRACTICAL POINTS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Relationships with in-laws do not have to be strained when the entire relationship is directed by God (Ruth 3:1).

2. Even today there is wisdom in a young person’s accepting his or her parents’ counsel concerning marriage (Ruth 3:2-3).

3. God’s plan for a young couple always includes absolute proper behavior in their relationship before marriage (Ruth 3:4-6).

4. Do not fear to make legitimate requests of righteous men or women (Ruth 3:8-9).
5. A righteous man will do what he can to respond to the requests of others (Ruth 3:10-12).

6. When we have done all we can in any situation, we must be patient and wait to see what results God will bring about (Ruth 3:16-18).