

property, Jesus redeemed humankind, including you and me. We needed a Kinsman Redeemer who was without sin to pay the price for our sins and transgressions. Despite the suffering and death involved, Jesus prevailed! We can also rejoice in the fact he is coming again – to redeem his bride, the church. Our challenge is to be faithful and ready upon his return.

Questions:

1. How can you use the concept of Kinsman Redeemer as an evangelist?
2. What are your thoughts about Ruth's

behavior on the threshing floor?

3. What does Ruth's behavior as an "outsider" teach us about gaining acceptance?

CLOSING DEVOTIONS

Closing Song: "I Am Redeemed, Bought With a Price"

Closing Prayer: Dear Lord, we thank you for our Kinsman Redeemer. Please bless us with humility and faithfulness that pleases you. Help us continuously to grow spiritually, and to be prepared when Jesus returns for his bride. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

HOME DAILY BIBLE READINGS

August 12 - August 18

Monday	Ezekiel 16:8-14 (God's Chosen Bride)
Tuesday	Deuteronomy 24:1-4 (Status of Divorced Women in Israel)
Wednesday	1 Corinthians 7:1-11 (Sustain Marital Love and Fidelity)
Thursday	1 Peter 3:1-9 (Husbands and Wives, Joint Heirs)
Friday	Ruth 4:9-12 (Boaz Buys Naomi's Property)
Saturday	Ruth 4:13-17 (Ruth and Boaz Marry; Obed Born)
Sunday	Ruth 3:1-6, 8-12, 16-18 (Support and Protect Marriage)

MARRIAGE: A COVENANT OF MUTUAL LOVE

Lesson Scripture: Ephesians 5:21–6:4

Focus Scripture: Ephesians 5:21-33

Key Verse: Be subject one to another out of reverence for Christ. Ephesians 5:21 (NRSV)

EPHESIANS 5:21-33 (NRSV)

21 Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.

22 Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord.

23 For the husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is the head of the church, the body of which he is the Savior.

24 Just as the church is subject to Christ, so also wives ought to be, in everything, to their husbands.

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,

26 in order to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word,

27 so as to present the church to himself in splendor, without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind—yes, so that she may be holy and without blemish.

28 In the same way, husbands should love their wives as they do their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

29 For no one ever hates his own body, but he nourishes and tenderly cares for it, just as Christ does for the church,

30 because we are members of his body.

31 “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”

32 This is a great mystery, and I am applying it to Christ and the church.

EPHESIANS 5:21-33 (KJV)

21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

33 Each of you, however, should love his wife as himself, and a wife should respect her husband.

33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

KEY TERMS

- **Ephesus** – Asia Minor’s primary trading center; a prosperous coastal city, with a multi-ethnic population.

INTRODUCTION

Last week, we focused on the marriage covenant between Boaz and Ruth. Parallels between their union and prophecies regarding the first “coming of Jesus Christ” were amazingly apparent. The source of today’s lesson is Paul’s letter to the church at Ephesus, which we recognize as the book of Ephesians. As he wrote from prison, the collective church (not individual members) was Paul’s intended audience. The purpose of the letter was to encourage the congregation to continue with the growth and nurturance of the Christian faith they were demonstrating.

Paul approached his purpose by focusing on the church as the body of Christ—its purpose and ideal nature. From this framework, Paul challenged the Ephesian congregation to use Jesus Christ and his relationship with the church as models for living as members of the body of Christ. Today, we focus specifically on Paul’s visions for Christian homes. In this portion of the letter, Paul presents a model for husband-wife relationships. Essentially, he is saying, “Use Jesus Christ and his church as your model, this

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is the kind of

home life Christians should endeavor to create.”

TELLING THE BIBLE STORY

Unlike the other lessons in this series, this lesson does not have a narrative that conveys individual stories. The letter is friendly, but seriously instructional. As usual, Paul was careful in choosing his words. For example, Paul places Christ as the head of all Christian households as he commands husbands and wives to “be subject one to another out of reverence for Christ” (Ephesians 5:21). Today, verses 22-24 tend to generate a lot of discussion, and frequently amusing “finger-pointing” occurs. However, Paul is speaking to the need for orderliness in Christian homes comparable to the church, where Jesus Christ is the head. It is important to note that Paul is speaking to

Christian men and women, whose behavior should never be determined by prevailing cultural norms. As respect for Jesus Christ and hierarchies within the church foster orderliness and personal discipline, the same should prevail in Christian homes. For wives, “being subject to husbands as you are to the Lord” infers voluntary action – no perceptions of compulsion or force should be associated with motivations to please our Savior.

Likewise, husbands have mutual responsibilities (vs. 25-29).