



Focus Determination, devotion and desire for redemption are all qualities of a hero.

Open What's the hardest physical labor you've done?

Read Ruth was an ordinary Moabite woman who was a hero to her mother-in-law, Naomi. Ruth's greatest achievement was being the great-grandmother of King David and an ancestor of Jesus (Ruth 4:17; Matthew 1:5). We can learn from her heroic qualities.

Ruth had an attitude of determination. She left her family and her gods and clung to Naomi because she had a glimpse of the true God (Ruth 1:16–18). We need that same type of determination to follow God in three areas:

1. His *Word* must be our priority (1 Corinthians 2:2; Matthew 6:33; Psalm 119:105).
2. His *will* calls us to sacrifice our desires and reject the influence of the world (Romans 12:2).
3. We must fight God's *war* with spiritual weapons, not in our flesh (Ephesians 6:13–14).

Ruth had a heart of devotion. She worked hard and earnestly served Naomi. Her diligence caused her to find favor with Boaz (Ruth 2:10–12). We're also called to serve faithfully, even when we don't receive recognition for it because we're serving God as we serve people (Matthew 23:11–12; Colossians 3:23). God equips us for greater works as we serve faithfully.

Ruth also had a desire for redemption. She followed Naomi's instructions and pursued Boaz to be their Kinsman-Redeemer. Jesus died so that we could be redeemed from sin and death. After we proclaim Christ as our Lord and Savior, the Holy Spirit works in us to redeem, or change for the better, our earthly living (Galatians 3:13–14; 1 Corinthians 6:19–20).

Talk

1. Which of the three qualities of Ruth spoke to you?
2. Can you remember a time in your life when it was difficult to follow God? What helped you find the determination you needed to be faithful?
3. Is there someone who has served you with devotion? How has that impacted your life? What result has it had in their life?
4. Read Colossians 3:23–24. Is there an area of your life where you feel you need to serve with greater excellence? Discuss this with the group.
5. Share with the group a recent story of redemption, such as a friend or family member who came to faith in Christ, an answer to prayer or God's provision or protection in your life.

Live

Where do you desire to see more of God's redemption in your life? Maybe in a relationship, your finances, your thought life or a habit you are struggling to overcome? Invite the Holy Spirit to come and do something new. Submit yourself and the struggle to Him each morning.

Pray

Lord, thank You for the heroes we know—people who have personally impacted our lives. We praise You, Holy Spirit, for Your continual work of redemption in our lives. Please transform us to be determined, devoted people who follow You and serve others faithfully.