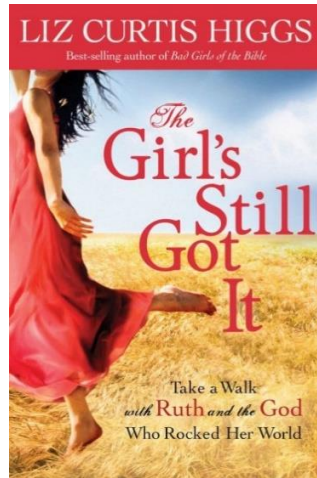


Word by Word with Liz Curtis Higgs on the Faith Radio Network

Bible Study Guide for April 28-29, 2018 | Boaz

from *The Girl's Still Got It* by Liz Curtis Higgs



1. It was not by chance that Ruth and Boaz met at midnight. Throughout the Bible we find dramatic scenes unfolding at that dark hour. You'll find two very different examples in Exodus 11:4–7 and Acts 16:25–31. In both situations God reveals his mighty power. Why at midnight, do you think? And why was that time ideal for Ruth to wake Boaz? Scripture repeatedly tells us that God shines in such settings, turning darkness into light. How might 2 Samuel 22:29 and Job 12:22 demonstrate that truth? And how does Psalm 112:4 suit our hero, Boaz?
2. Boaz may seem too good to be true, yet there are generous men around us today, quietly blessing others in God's name. See how many such men you can list—godly men of all ages, married or single, who've crossed your path. On the threshing floor, Boaz could have rejected Ruth's proposal, ruined her reputation, and ravished her body. Of course, he did none of those things. Instead he told her, "Don't be afraid." Look at the following instances where that same message appears, then note who is speaking and why the listener need not fear: Genesis 15:1; Genesis 21:17; Genesis 26:24; Joshua 8:1; Judges 6:23. How does reading these heavenly assurances from centuries ago ease your fears today, just as Boaz eased Ruth's fears?
3. Boaz was aware of the other kinsman's existence yet didn't address him by name. What was Boaz communicating to him? And to the ten elders? And to all the citizens of Bethlehem within earshot? Why was it important that they see who Mr. No was...and who he was not? Since the word *name* can also refer to one's reputation, what else might this man's lack of a name tell us about him? What counsel does Proverbs 3:3–4 offer when it comes to keeping our good names?

4. Write down as many descriptive words for Mr. No as you can come up with. Then next to each one write the opposite meaning—Unknown/Renowned, Indecisive/Decisive, etc. Take a look at the list on the right. Do those words in fact describe Boaz? Consider how the following verses might help us understand these two very different kinsmen: Proverbs 10:7; 11:28; 12:23. Did Naomi seem overly concerned about this other kinsman-redeemer? What makes you say that? As to Ruth, does anything indicate she was worried? What might their responses teach us about trusting God?
5. As we thunder toward the finish line, we have a sense that all of Bethlehem was rooting for this “man of standing” and this “woman of noble character.” But it was not enough for them to marry and for Boaz to buy Naomi’s land. That only redeemed the family property. It would take a child to redeem the family name. Our story ends with Naomi holding the future in her arms. We are reminded again of her bitter words, “the Lord has brought me back empty,” even as we rejoice over God’s willingness to restore what was lost. Think of all the ways Obed redeemed Naomi just by being born. Now think of all the ways Jesus redeemed us by dying on the cross. How does Ephesians 1:7–10 bring the truth of that redemption alive for you?
6. What’s the most important lesson you learned from the story of Boaz, a kinsman-redeemer who saved the day?