

Sermon Notes

Ruth 4 | Written by Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson

This is the fourth, and final, in our short fall series on the Book of Ruth. At first glance, the book is about people in such a different time and place that there can't really be any overlap with our own time and place. However, one thing the book reveals is how God is involved in our ordinary lives, and how we might choose to partner with Him to make a difference in the lives and community around us. And all this takes place in the midst of a broken world, where tragedy and pain and suffering and uncertainty are common.

1. When have you tried to “get off the hook” regarding some responsibility that was thrust upon you or offered to you? Were you successful in avoiding the challenge? What happened positively or negatively because of your choice? And did anyone fill the gap or take up the slack you left? What happened to them because they addressed the challenge you avoided?
2. Read Ruth chapter 4. Where the New Revised Standard Version uses the phrase “next of kin,” other translations use “the redeemer” or “family redeemer” or “guardian-redeemer” (ESV, NLT, NIV). That person is the nearest male relative (brother, uncle, cousin) who was called to step in and purchase the land (or buy it back from an outsider) to keep his relative’s property from coming under the ownership of someone outside their tribe. Or, based on levirate law, if a man died without an heir, his brother or closest relative was required to marry and be open to procreation with his new wife so the son born from this union would carry forward the line of the deceased. How do you react to this custom and why do you think the first person opts out of the obligation and Boaz accepts the responsibility?
3. In verses, 11-16, what do the townspeople *pray for* regarding Boaz and Ruth and Naomi? And what positive results occur? Who might you pray for today?
4. Why do you think the names in verses 12 and 18-21 are mentioned? I offered my thoughts on this matter in my message. Does it encourage you or discourage you that there are some skeletons in Ruth and Boaz’s family closet? And what about the fact that God always uses *imperfect vessels* to advance His perfect will?
5. If Boaz, by his actions as guardian-redeemer, foreshadows what Jesus does as Redeemer for the whole world, how can we appreciate and enter into the benefits made possible by Christ’s life, death, and resurrection? What is your biggest takeaway from the Book of Ruth? What are you challenged to think or believe or do differently because of this short series?

.....

Financial Update	as of Sep 21, 2025
2025 Annual Budget	\$ 14,203,292
Actual Income to Date	9,084,888
Needed to Meet 2025 Budget	5,118,404



Give Online
give.mdpc.org



MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

It's Outreach Sunday!

During the 9:45 and 11:15 services, we'll recognize our ministry partners before hosting them for lunch (the partner lunch is a closed event, but plan to be here for all-church lunch next Sunday!). This is a wonderful opportunity to meet these front-line partners and learn more about the impactful work you help support. Please help us welcome them to MDPC!

Young Adult (18-35) Worship Night Thu, Oct 2 | 7-9pm

Whether you're looking for community, quiet time with the Lord, or a fresh way to connect with your faith, this night is for you. Come as you are, and bring a friend! More info: yaevents.mdpc.org

Marriage Retreat

Sat-Sun, Oct 4-5 | Noon-Noon

Couples, pack your bags: we're headed back to Moody Gardens in Galveston! It's a weekend full of teaching, rest, and reconnection with each other and with God.

For more details and to register, visit marriageretreat.mdpc.org.

Lunch & Learn

Sun, Oct 5 | 12:30-1:30pm

Come learn about Stephen Ministry and how to potentially become a Stephen Minister. There's no obligation, just an opportunity to hear about this special ministry from current Stephen Ministers. Learn more at lunchandlearn.mdpc.org.

To view all events, visit events.mdpc.org.

Preschool Bubble Day

Sat, Oct 18 | 10-11:30am

Master Bubble Wranglers from Texas Bubbblers will amaze us with giant bubbles and bubble tricks! This event is for preschoolers; must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver. Sign up today! kids.mdpc.org

Senior Adult Fellowship Lunch

Mon, Oct 20 | 11am-1pm

Connect and enjoy Christian fellowship at our monthly lunch. No reservations required! Order your food in MDPC Café and bring to our group's tables in Fellowship Hall. Learn more at seniors.mdpc.org.

New Women's Bible Study

Thu, Oct 23-Nov 20 | 11:45am-1pm

Grab your Bible, your lunch, and your brave heart—because we're diving into five powerful stories of courage and faith-full living! Free childcare available. Learn more and sign up: women.mdpc.org

Gingerbread House Event

Registration opens Oct 2 | 9am

Bring your family or friends and build your dream gingerbread house at our annual event! The event is on Sat, Dec 6 with time slots at 9-10:30am or 10:30-Noon. \$41/house. Register: reach.mdpc.org



Personal Safety Awareness and Self Defense

Lt. Roy Guinn of the Constables Department (back by popular demand) offers practical tactics and techniques to deal with dangerous situations at home or in public. For women and men, 18 and up.

Thu, Oct 2 | 6:30-8:30pm
Bring a friend to this free event.





Come hear women just like you tell their stories! The Well is for all ages and stages.

THU, OCT 16
6:30 • REFRESHMENTS AT 6
Details and RSVP:
THEWELL.MDPC.ORG



8:30 BLENDED SERVICE

GATHERING

Call to Worship		Clay Brown
*Worship Songs	Forever (Give Thanks to the Lord) Open the Eyes of My Heart	
*Confession & Assurance Prayers of the People		Clay Brown
Worship Song	Holy Forever	

HEARING THE WORD

Message	The Gospel in Ruth: Redemption Ruth 4:1-22 (NLT)	Alf Halvorson
---------	---	---------------

RESPONDING

Song of Response	Goodness of God	
------------------	-----------------	--

SENDING

*Doxology		OLD 100TH
*Benediction		Alf Halvorson

.....

9:45 CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

GATHERING

Call to Worship		Sally Henien
*Worship Songs	Great Things Freedom in this House	
*Confession & Assurance		Amy Delgado
*Worship Song	Holy Forever	

HEARING THE WORD

Message	The Gospel in Ruth: Redemption Ruth 4:1-22 (NLT)	Alf Halvorson
---------	---	---------------

RESPONDING

Song of Response	Goodness of God	
------------------	-----------------	--

SENDING

*Doxology		OLD 100TH
*Benediction		Alf Halvorson

Musicians: Asher Pudlo, drums; Uvaldo Callejas, bass; JJ Blanco, guitar;
Tim Hughes, violin; Michael Middleton and Meliza Gómez, worship leaders

*Please stand, if comfortable.

As you enter worship, we kindly ask that you silence your cell phones.

11:15 TRADITIONAL SERVICE

GATHERING

Prelude	Choral in A Minor	César Franck (1822-1890)
Call to Worship		Dan Aikins
Choral Introit	Praise	Alec Rowley (1892-1958)
*Hymn of Praise	God of the Ages	Vs. 1, 2, 4 #262 NATIONAL HYMN
*Confession and Assurance of Pardon		Amy Delgado
*Affirmation of Faith from Heidelberg Catechism		

Anthem	O for the Wings of a Dove	Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
--------	---------------------------	-------------------------------

HEARING THE WORD

Anthem of Preparation	Hear Me, Redeemer	Henry Mollicone (1946-2022)
Message	The Gospel in Ruth: Redemption Ruth 4:1-22 (NLT)	Alf Halvorson

RESPONDING

*Hymn of Response	Take Time to Be Holy	Vs. 1, 3, 4 #395 HOLINESS (from The United Methodist Hymnal)
-------------------	----------------------	---

Prayers of the People The Lord's Prayer		Dan Aikins
---	--	------------

*Congregational Response	O Sing a New Song (Psalm 96)	Vs. 3, 4, 5, 6 #217 arr. Hal Hopson
--------------------------	------------------------------	---

SENDING

*Doxology	Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow	#592 OLD 100TH
*Benediction		Alf Halvorson
Postlude	Toccato	Mary McDonald (b. 1956)

Musicians: Priscilla Salisbury and Jason Amos, soloists | Sanctuary Choir
Charles Hausmann, Traditional Worship Director | Kathryn White, Organist

You're Invited to

ALL-CHURCH LUNCH

Next Sun, Oct 5 | Fellowship Hall

Join your church family for lunch on the first Sunday of each month! October's menu options include Cod Olympia, an entrée-sized Cobb Salad, and chicken tenders for the kids.

Pricing and more: [ACL.mdpc.org](https://acl.mdpc.org)

Thanks to your generosity...

MDPC was able to give \$520,000 this month to our local and global ministry partners. That brings our year-to-date giving to a little over \$2.3 million—funds that are fueling Gospel work and changing lives here in Houston and around the world. Thank you for being part of God's mission through your faithful giving! Learn more about the partners MDPC supports at outreach.mdpc.org.

Would you like to get in touch with one of our Pastors? Feel free to reach out! Visit staff.mdpc.org for contact information and ministry areas.