

## “New Hope WoMan Talk”

Series: *Family Tree*

(Part 4 of 4)

**Open:** Who are some key women (from your family, work, church, or history books) you respect and admire?

**Explore:** Read Ruth 2:1-12.

The book of Ruth is named after one of its main characters, a young woman of Moab, the great grandmother of David and an ancestress of Jesus. Although she experienced pain in life, she also experienced the power of God’s provision.

1. Why was Ruth picking grain in the field (vs. 1-5)? Who took notice of the new girl as she worked?
2. What facts do we learn about Ruth from the servant in the story (vs. 6-7)?
3. After meeting face to face, what instructions did Boaz give to Ruth (vs. 8-9)? What does this say about the way he felt toward her?
4. Why did Ruth find favor with Boaz (vs. 10-12)? Who was ultimately watching out for Ruth?

**Reflect:** Review key points from the lesson before answering the questions.

1. Famous country singer, Tammy Wynette, has said, “*Sometimes it’s hard to be a woman.*” In what ways, is this statement true?
2. Actions typically speak louder than words. How is this especially true for married couples?
3. Physical touch and intimacy are critical for marital success. How have you seen this area abused in a marriage relationship? According to 1 Corinthians 7:4-5, who wins when couples ignore one another?
4. Why is it so important for a woman to encourage her husband? What might this look like (practically speaking) in everyday life?
5. All marriages can use a tune-up. What has been the biggest take away for you from this lesson?

**Apply:** Live it.

As a CARE Group: Encourage the women in your group. Pray that God would give them the courage and wisdom to be the wives (future wives) God has called them to be.

On your own: Think of an older Godly woman you admire. Write her a letter explaining how much you appreciate the way she handles life’s challenges. Ask for her advice with any area you may be struggling. She will be honored by your attention, and you will gain valuable insight in becoming the woman you want to be.

## Listening Guide Notes

**Three things to do to your husband for a better marriage...**

1. Entrust your husband.

*“Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives.” –1 Peter 3:1 (NIV)*

*“Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?” –2 Corinthians 6:14 (NIV)*

2. Engage your husband.

<sup>[4]</sup> *“The wife’s body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband’s body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. <sup>[5]</sup> Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.” –1 Corinthians 7:4-5 (NIV)*

3. Encourage your husband.

*“Husbands love your wives, as Christ loved the church... and the wife must respect her husband.” –Ephesians 5:25, 33 (NIV)*

<sup>[14]</sup> *“David, wearing a linen ephod, danced before the LORD with all his might, <sup>[15]</sup> while he and the entire house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouts and the sound of trumpets. <sup>[16]</sup> As the ark of the LORD was entering the City of David, Michal daughter of Saul watched from a window. And when she saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD, she despised him in her heart.” –2 Samuel 6:14-16 (NIV)*

*“When David returned home to bless his household, Michal daughter of Saul came out to meet him and said, ‘How the king of Israel has distinguished himself today, disrobing in the sight of the slave girls of his servants as any vulgar fellow would!’” –2 Samuel 6:20 (NIV)*

<sup>[21]</sup> *“David said to Michal, ‘It was before the LORD, who chose me rather than your father or anyone from his house when he appointed me ruler over the LORD’s people Israel—I will celebrate before the LORD. <sup>[22]</sup> I will become even more undignified than this, and I will be humiliated in my own eyes. But by these slave girls you spoke of, I will be held in honor.’ <sup>[23]</sup> And Michal daughter of Saul had no children to the day of her death.” –2 Samuel 6:21-23 (NIV)*