

III. THE LANGUAGE OF LIFE:

- A. Godly couples are “*heirs together of the gracious gift of life*” (1Pet. 3:7) Ruth and Boaz were good listeners, great responders to God’s truth and greater purposes. Boaz, as a responsible “kinsman,” follows reason and legislation, yet prudently and publically speaks words of life. Couples must learn to say the right thing, to the right person and say it at the right time!
- B. Take this Test: Do I... (1) listen with interest, attentiveness and good eye contact? (2) Show patterns of hurtful or harsh speech? (3) Say what I mean in a courteous and gracious way?
- C. Boaz and Ruth’s “I do” to God, brought these widows out of their poverty and pain into an incredible inheritance. Beyond restoring their land and family name, it produced an heir who will be *the Word of God*, our blessed Redeemer bringing life, health and peace to all. Christians belong to Christ who has included us in His inheritance When people listen to us talk, do they hear wonderful words of life and beauty that teach them faith and duty?

Happily
EVER AFTER?

Habit 3: Communicate in the same language with your spouse.

“Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.” I Corinthians 10:10

HAPPILY EVER AFTER

Learning To Speak The Same Language

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INTRODUCTION

- A. Happily ever after? It happens...but not by accident. The truth is it takes work for a marriage to work out!

“Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband”
Ephesians 5:33

Falling in love is easy, staying in love takes hard work.

- B. In this series, you will learn the six habits of happy couples. They are:

Feb 9	The Foundation Of A Happy Marriage
Feb 16	Finding The Love Of Your Life
TODAY	Learning To Speak The Same Language
Mar 2	Help! I’ve Married The Wrong Person
Mar 9	The Birds And The Bees
Mar 16	Team Work Makes The Dream Work

Come and discover how to be Happily Ever After.

- C. **Text:** Ruth 1:1-5 (Pew Bible/Pg.266/Old Testament)

The Happily Ever After story of Boaz and Ruth.

LEARNING TO SPEAK THE SAME LANGUAGE

The Book of Ruth starts and ends with a **wedding**; one with a sad ending, the other *Happily Ever After!* Communication is the key to create and **maintain** any healthy relationship. We need to speak to each other in tough times and avoid withdrawing in silence (**hiding**) or exploding in anger (**hurling**). We must *speak truth, but always do so in love*. Importantly, we need to learn to listen to our spouse's **heart** and ensure our sharing is meaningful, **sincere** and builds the other up. Amidst the darkest of times morally (tribe of *Benjamin*, Judges) we find God's redemptive love story of grace (from **Bethlehem** of Judah) of Ruth's Redeemer!

I. THE LANGUAGE OF **LAMENT**: (Ruth 1:1-5; 19-22)

- A. When tragedy and calamity strikes a marriage, “what we **do** with what happens to us is more important than what happens to us!” We will never find true prosperity outside God's *will* and obedience to His *word*. Recollect God's *ways* and tell personal **stories** as you discuss issues. Note the use and meaning of **names** e.g. Naomi [pleasant] chooses to be called *Mara* “bitter”! Bitter regret makes us forgetful, leaves us empty so we say faithless things (20-21).
- B. Playing the age-old couples' **blame** game and nurturing bitterness ruins relationships. Let's accept our situation, **admit** our failures or weakness and boldly **acknowledge** God at work! Recognize God, who designed marriage, intended it to be 3-way communication – 1st talk to God! Seek and take it to the Lord “in **prayer**”, speak forth “blessings” into each other's lives. Naomi, Ruth and Boaz invoke God's blessing on the other in **ordinary** speech in everyday life!

II. THE LANGUAGE OF **LOYALTY**: (Ruth 2:5-10)

- A. *Loyalty and love* go hand in hand for a *Happily Ever After* relationship! There are socio-ethnic-economic differences between Ruth a Moabite and Naomi, her Jewish Mom-in-Law. Yet she understood YHWH's *covenantal, unconditional love [HESED]* that **expresses** itself in sacrificial service. Loyal love is a constant choice based on **commitment**, till death (not debt) do us part! (‘But Ruth’ x4 “I will” 16-18)! It is rooted in and flourishes by God's favor [grace], worth more than good **fortune**. It takes the initiative in practical ways to show kindness
- B. **Non verbal** communication is more powerful than volumes of vain words. Boaz - Ruth and Naomi's “kinsman redeemer” is a type of Christ. He **willingly** cared for the poor, widow and foreigner. He perceives Ruth's needs, protects and provides for her (“*under his wings*” 2:12; 3:9). Their conversation is characterized by deep reverence for God and **respect** for others!