

Lesson 15

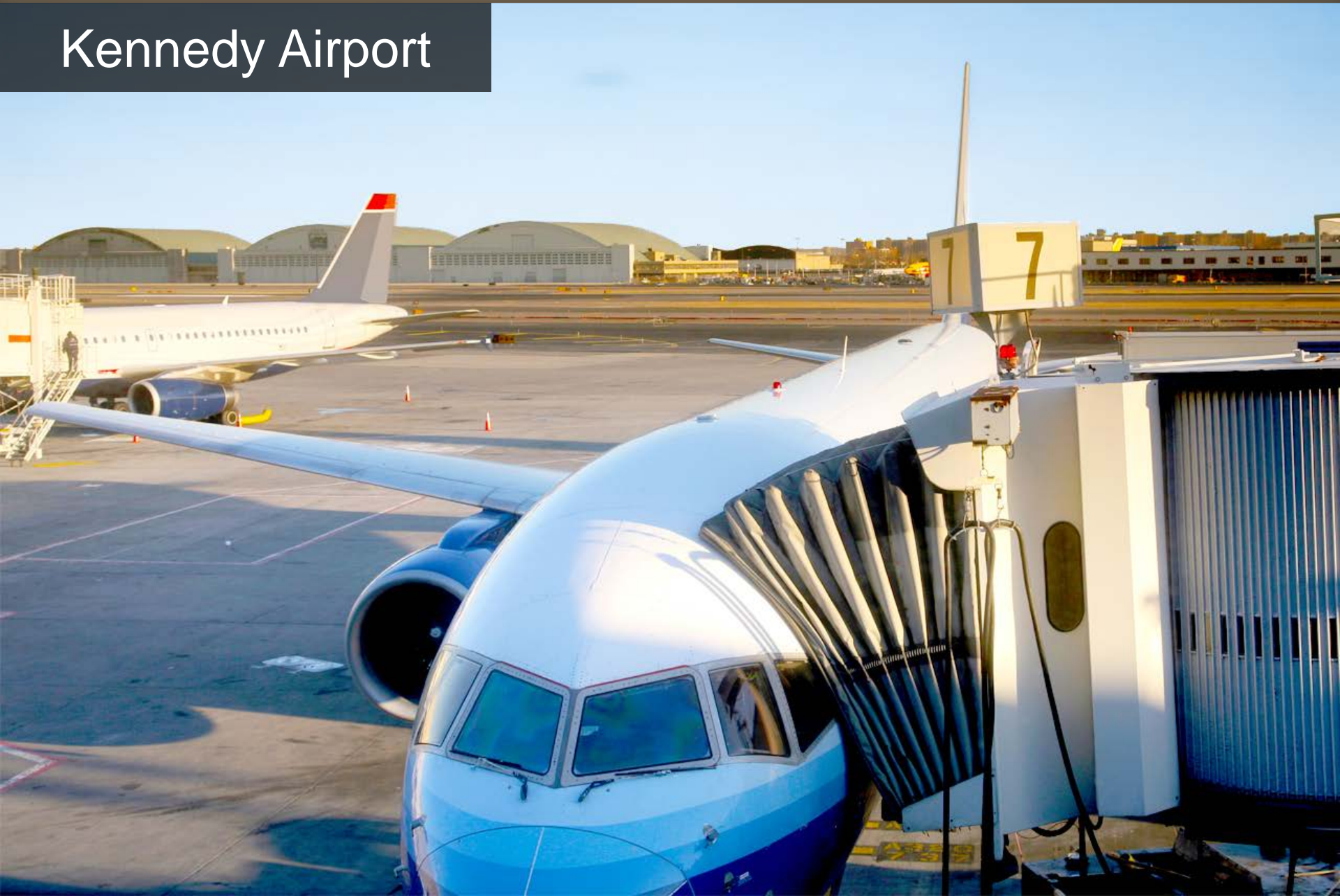
A Role Model of Biblical Femininity: Ruth



Rejoicing in God's Good Design

Illustration

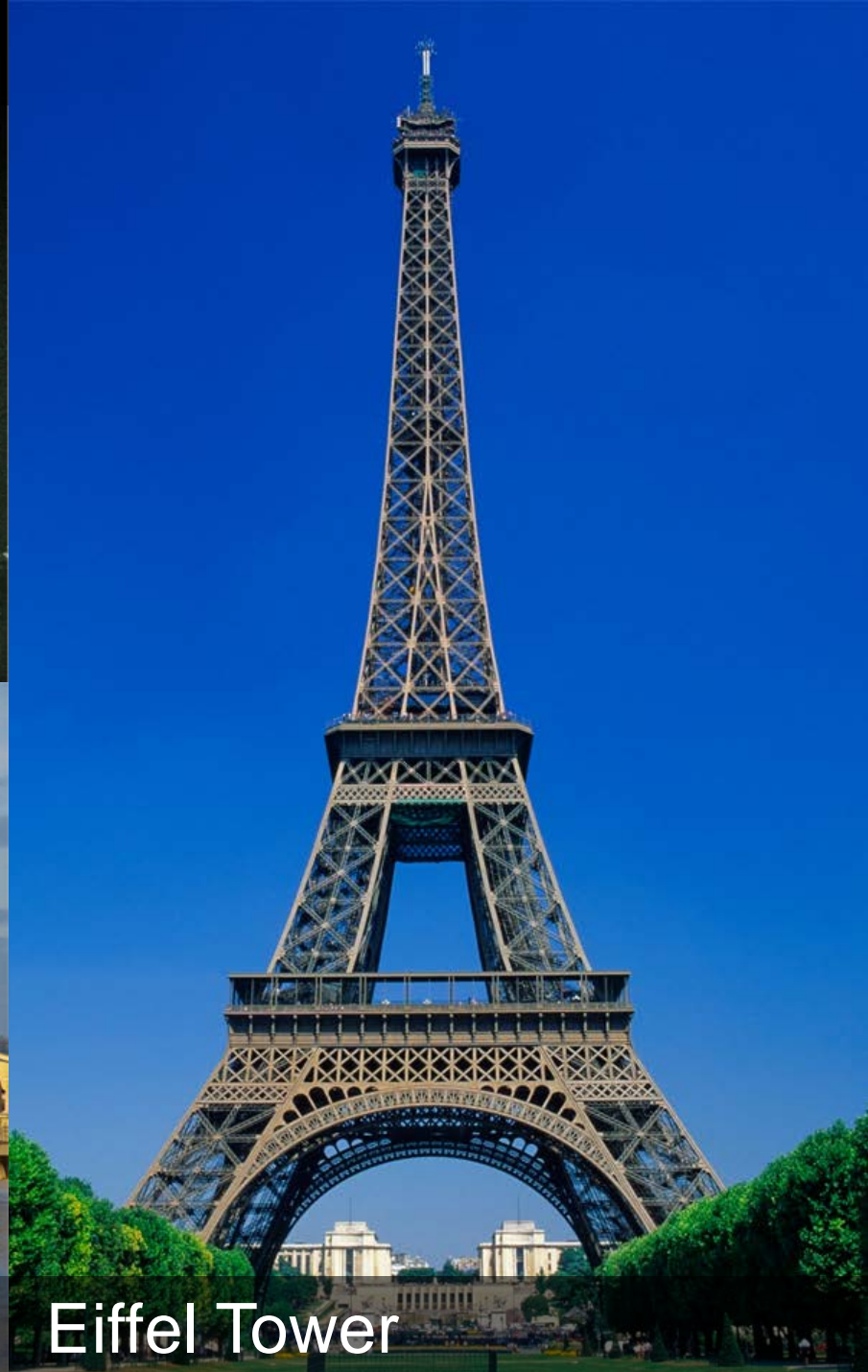
Kennedy Airport



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Ruth 1: Embracing the Role of Helper



Elimelech

Naomi

Mahlon

Chilion

Ruth

Orpah

Ruth 1: Embracing the Role of Helper

...“Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. ¹⁷Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the LORD do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you.”

Ruth 1:16-17

Ruth gives up her own independence and submits herself to follow and stay with Naomi.

Ruth 1: Embracing the Role of Helper

Ruth: A Model of Femininity

- Helper-companion
- Submission to headship
- Devotion to God



Ruth 2: Receiving Male Strength and Leadership



Women without husbands and sons: poverty

Ruth is choosing a life of poverty, sacrifice, and hard work.

Ruth 2:7

Ruth 2: Receiving Male Strength and Leadership

Boaz's response to Ruth:

- Takes lead
- Provides for her
- Protects her



Boaz: A Model of Masculinity

Boaz takes initiative and responsibility, acting with strength and masculinity because of Ruth's godliness.

Ruth 2: Receiving Male Strength and Leadership

BOAZ

A picture of true manhood

- Leads: Takes initiative
- Provides: Ruth has food to eat and grain to gather
- Protects: Instructs young men about Ruth

Ruth 3: Submitting and Waiting

BOAZ

A picture of true manhood

- Leads
- Provides
- Protects

RUTH

A picture of true womanhood

- Companion-helper
- Devotion to God
- Submission to headship

Ruth obeys Naomi (3:6). She submits herself humbly to Boaz, and expresses her desire to come under the protection and headship of Boaz.

Ruth 3: Submitting and Waiting

Ruth 3:9b

Redeemer:
In Israelite culture, a redeemer
was a close relative who could
rescue a widow out of the
impoverished and helpless
state.



Ruth 4: Marriage and Childbearing

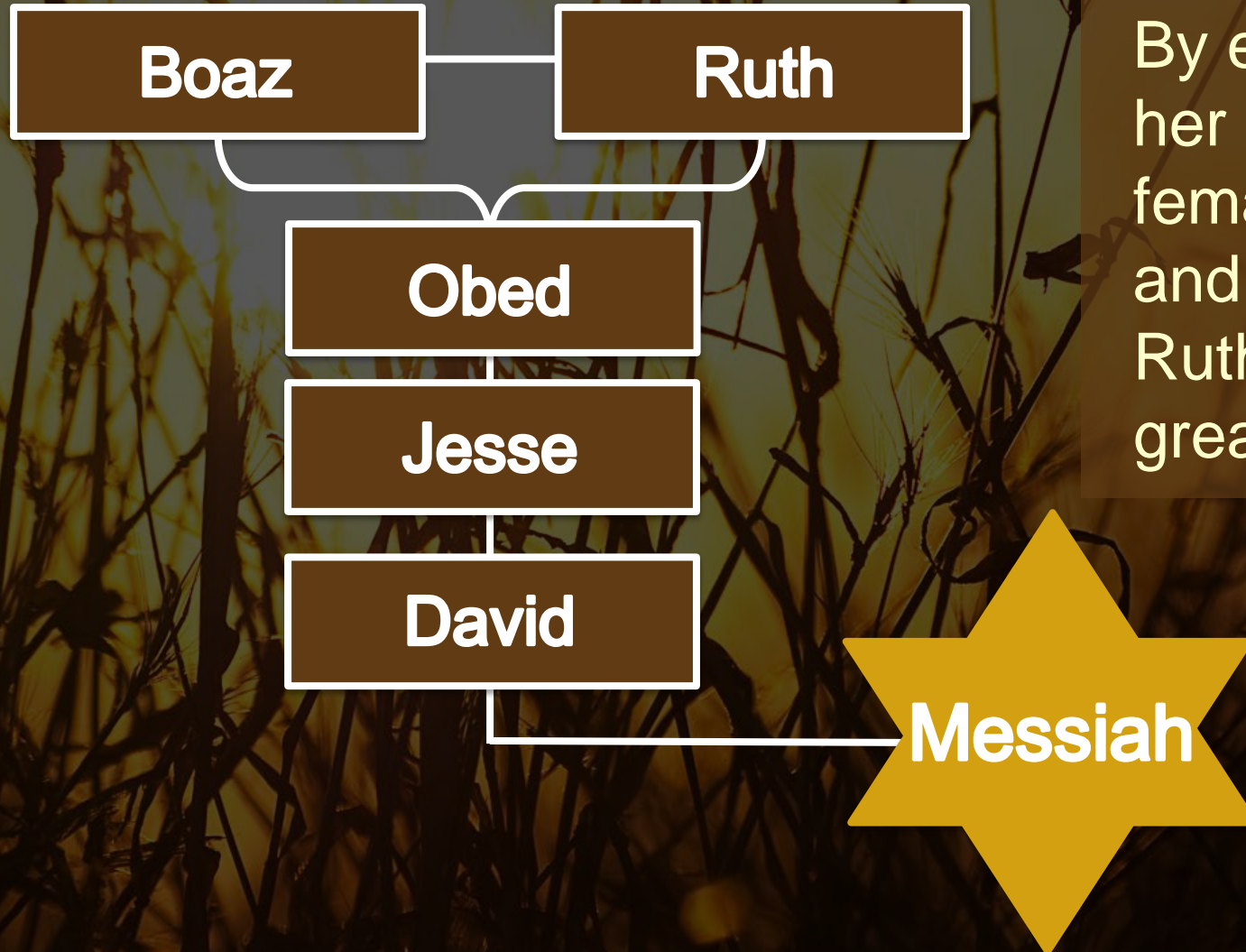


Boaz's Response:

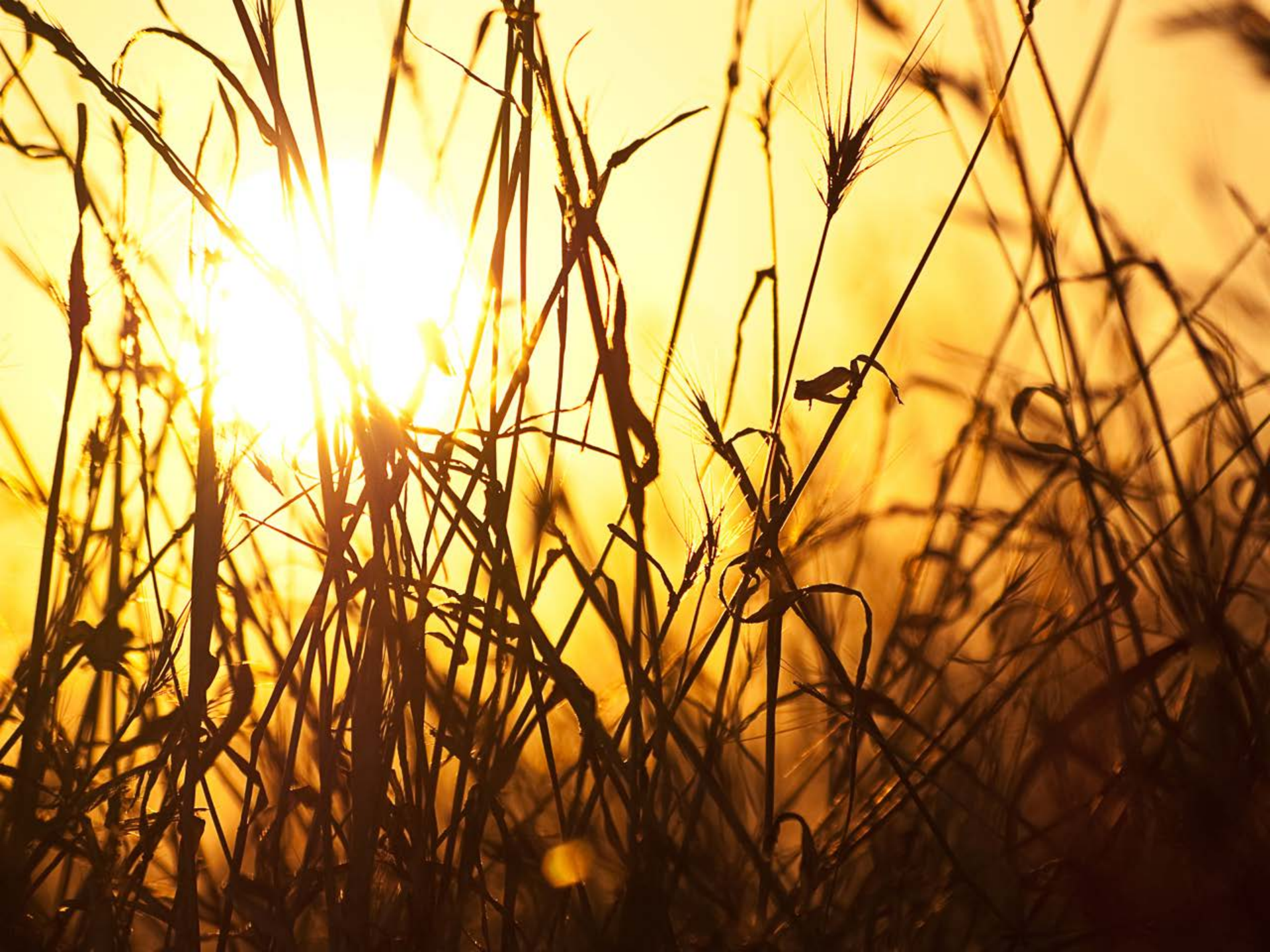
- Respectful of the traditions of his people.
- Takes initiative to settle the matter “that day.”

Through the help, submission, and loyal devotion of Ruth, Naomi is provided for.

Ruth 4: Marriage and Childbearing



By embracing her distinct female roles and identity, Ruth receives great joy.



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**Truth78
info@Truth78.org
www.Truth78.org**