



“And now I am no more in the world,
but these are in the world...” (John 17:11).

Use this recent news story to help your students see the relevance
of this week’s lesson from the Standard Lesson Commentary®
or Standard Lesson Quarterly®.

BREAKING FROM WEDDING TRADITIONS

Weddings are becoming more individualized and focused on what the couple wants rather than following convention. For instance, one trend in 2019 is to have a traditional ceremony and a second wedding event—as much as six months later—that is more of a party. The reception, which used to feature more or less the same traditional elements, has become more mix and match to suit a couple’s desires. One event planner advises, “Don’t have the evening regimented by protocol with a three-course meal and choreographed dances. You can do that if you really want to, but it would be a shame to fall back on conventionality in that way.”

HONORING WEDDING TRADITIONS

The story of Ruth approaching Boaz to take her as his wife is all about “falling back on conventionality.” Ancient tradition held that the nearest male relative of a deceased Jewish man must marry his widow in order to bear children to be the dead man’s heirs (see Deuteronomy 25:5–6; Ruth 4:10, 13; Mark 12:19; Luke 20:28). This week’s story, about Ruth covering herself under Boaz’s blanket, is odd to us, but it is a picture of two people carefully honoring cherished Jewish tradition.

1. What’s the strangest wedding you’ve ever heard of or been to?
2. What wedding tradition do you love most? Which one do you wish would go away?
3. If you know of some unusual traditions or laws, which is your favorite?

Additional Resources

Music Video, Traditional: [“O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus”](#)

Music Video, Multicultural: [“1,000 Hallelujahs” by Casey J](#)

Music Video, Contemporary: [“Shook” by Stillman](#)

[Constable’s Commentary on Ruth 3](#)

[Guzik’s Commentary on Ruth 3](#)

[Coffman’s Commentary on Ruth 3](#)

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