

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Living out the gospel with
one another in our homes

Ruth 2

Ruth and Naomi have arrived in Bethlehem in time for the barley harvest. It's true YHWH has "*visited his people*" and harvest has come (1:6). The famine is over in Israel but how would life fare for these two widows?

Chapter two centers on Ruth the Moabite and Boaz the "*worthy man*" of Elimelech's clan who is a close relative and family-redeemer (2:1, 20). Tension builds as this woman who has left everything and has come to a new land, a new people, and a new God, goes to request permission to glean in a field. She happens "*by chance*" to come to the field of Boaz.

Boaz not only grants her request, he offers her protection and water to drink -- a welcomed change of circumstance for Ruth that causes her to ask why he would show such great favor to her, a foreigner (2:10). Boaz answers that he has heard of everything she has done for Naomi. He asks YHWH to repay her! The language Boaz uses suggests that the type of payment that Ruth deserves is something only YHWH could give. For his part, he will reward Ruth by feeding her (he even serves her and she's satisfied with left-overs!), letting her glean in the best parts of the harvest field, and making her a part of his clan for the remainder of the harvest. Ruth returns to Naomi with a full report and a sense of new found security

On Sunday We Focused On How We View God - Generous Father or Disgruntled Ogre?

Questions:

1. What does Ruth teach us about asking? How does this encourage your prayer life with God?
2. What does Boaz' response teach us about God's generosity.
3. Sunday we said, "Jesus is the better Boaz." What does that mean? How does Boaz fulfill a picture of the Messiah? How does Jesus exceed that?
4. What barriers keep you from making big and bold requests from God?