



Grace in Gleaning

RECAP

This week's focus: "God's loving-kindness (hesed) protects and provides."

The second chapter of Ruth opens with a brief introduction of Naomi's relative, Boaz, before Ruth asks her mother-in-law for permission to glean in the neighboring fields (2). It just so happened that Ruth landed in Boaz's field who quickly recognized there was a new gleaner in town (3-4). Upon inquiring about the new arrival, he learned that it was Naomi's daughter-in-law Ruth, the one from Moab (5-6).

It didn't take long for Boaz to begin to protect and provide for Ruth. He invited her to glean in his fields (8) and told the young men to leave her alone, as well as, encouraged her to drink from the male worker's water (9). This was a pretty significant role reversal!

This hesed loving kindness caught Ruth by surprise (10) but Boaz was quick to point out that word had traveled about the hesed loving kindness that Ruth had shown Naomi (11). After Boaz spoke a blessing over Ruth (12), she found a deep sense of peace and comfort (13).

When lunch time rolled around Boaz invited Ruth to join him for lunch, their first (unofficial) date (14). After a satisfying meal, Ruth took some leftovers and went back out to glean again while Boaz, behind the scenes, gave his workers the orders to leave generous portions behind them in the fields for Ruth to collect (15-16). After working the remainder of the day, Ruth hauled in an incredible amount of barley, somewhere between 30-50lbs worth (17). Ruth made her way home with the leftovers from lunch, and the massive amount of barley, which caught Naomi by surprise (18-19). This led to a conversation between Ruth and Naomi. During their conversation, all the dots were connected that the field Ruth was working in belonged to Naomi's relative Boaz (20), something we as the readers knew all along.

The chapter closes with Naomi reiterating to Ruth what Boaz said, that she should continue to work in Boaz's fields, and his fields alone (22). This is what Ruth did. She worked Boaz's fields by day and stayed with her mother-in-law at night (23).

Boaz stepped onto the scene and became a picture of Jesus in the way he protected and provided for Ruth. Like Boaz, Jesus is the Ultimate Provider of life and Protector from harm, giving us a future hope beyond the grave, and the present hope of abundant life.



Grace in Gleaning

SHARE (5-10 min)

1. Icebreaker Question: What is the craziest prayer you've seen God answer? What were you specifically asking for? How did God provide?

STUDY (about 30 min) Read Ruth 2

1. How did God speak to you through the scripture and the sermon this week? Is there anything that was unclear, or that you have questions about?
2. Share a story of a time you felt extremely provided for and/or protected.
3. God makes provisions all throughout scripture for those on the outskirts of society. How do you join God in His efforts to care for the least, the last, and the lost?
4. Share a time in your life where you could see God was at work behind the scenes. How did that experience challenge you? How did it impact your faith in God?
5. Read verse 9. Why do you think Boaz goes out of his way, breaking cultural norms, to provide for and protect Ruth?
6. How does the family of God comfort those in need like Ruth, today? How have you felt comforted by the family of God in your life?
7. God's provision and protection is found within His boundaries. Why do you think it's so hard for us to stay within God's boundaries even when we know that's where His provision and protection can be found?
8. What is one thing you can do this week to show God's grace to others, like Boaz did for Ruth?

SUPPORT (15 min)

Break up into groups of 3 or 4, share your prayer requests and spend some time praying for God's provision and protection.