

# RUTH



## WEEK THREE

### "GLEAN AND GATHER"

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#### DAY 1

1. Begin your study time with prayer.
2. Read Ruth 2:1-7. The first chapter of Ruth outlines the incredible difficulties that befall Ruth and Naomi. They have both lost their husbands (and Naomi has lost both her her sons), they are in financial ruin and have been forced to relocate. Put yourself in their shoes for a minute. How would you feel? What excuses would you give yourself to wallow in misery, depression, and inaction?
3. Instead of remaining in bed in despair, what request does Ruth make of Naomi in Ruth 2:2?
4. Ruth has every excuse to sit at home in grief, but instead she requests permission to find a field in which to glean so that they may have food to eat. She understands that there are still tasks to be done even in the midst of extreme difficulty. Ruth is diligent and industrious. Look up the definitions for both of those words and write them below:
5. Write out this week's memory verse on a notecard or a piece of paper and post it somewhere you will see it often (e.g bathroom mirror, car, desk, kitchen sink, etc.).

#### Scripture Memory:

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord

~ 1 Corinthians 15:58

#### I'm praying about:

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## DAY 2

1. Begin your study time with prayer.
2. It may seem odd that Ruth would request to glean in another's field, but there is cultural context for such a request. Read Leviticus 19:9-10, Deuteronomy 14:28-29, and 24:19-22. What does God command be done in these verses?
3. How does God view those who oppress the widow, orphan, or needy in Zechariah 7:9-14, Malachi 3:5, Mark 12:38-40?
4. While the Lord commanded the Israelites to leave behind part of the harvest for the needy, the verses above demonstrate that this command was not always followed. Ruth potentially faced rejection at best, and physical danger at worst as she sought to glean and gather in a field that was not hers. For some, this would be enough to keep them home, but not Ruth. She had excuses to offer, but instead of voicing them she got up in the morning to diligently seek provision for her and Naomi. Regardless of your circumstances, there is always something to glean and gather. How do Ruth's actions challenge you in your life?
5. Write out this week's memory verse below:

## DAY 3

1. Begin your study time with prayer.
2. The Bible discusses both diligence and laziness. In Proverbs the lazy man is called a " sluggard." How does the Bible describe both the sluggard and the diligent (or righteous person) in Proverbs 10:4, 6 & 26; 12:24; 13:4, 19:15, 21:5, 25-26, 24:30-34 & 26:14-16? What is their blessing or their unfortunate end?

Sluggard:

Diligent:

3. Write out this week's memory verse below:

## DAY 4

1. Begin your study time with prayer.
2. Read Ecclesiastes 9:10 and Colossians 3:23. How should we approach any and all "work" with which we are entrusted?
3. Our "work" in a given day may consist of many things from emails to dishes, school work, test prep, diapers, phone calls, meetings and anything and everything in between. These things make "provision" for our household/life to run smoothly. What does 1 Timothy 5:8 say about one who will not work to provide for his or her family/household?
4. Think about various areas in your life such as your job, schoolwork, relationship with Christ, marriage, parenting, etc. Are there any areas God is convicting you of in which you have become lazy? What can you do to press into diligence in those areas?
5. Our "work" can, at times, be exhausting. What encouragement does 1 Corinthians 15:58 offer us?
6. Write out this week's memory verse below:

## DAY 5

1. Begin your study time with prayer.
2. In Ruth 2:2, what does Ruth hope to find from the one in whose field she gleans?
3. Where do Proverbs 12:2 and 16:7 tell us that favor comes from?
4. Ruth had to diligently seek a place to glean and gather, but only God could grant her favor with Boaz. The same is true for you in your life. From Ruth's perspective, "she happened to come" (Ruth 2:3) to Boaz's field, but who does Psalm 37:23 tell us was directing her?
5. According to Deuteronomy 24:17-18 & 22, what is the reason God commands a landowner to leave bits of his/her harvest behind? How is this command a parallel of spiritual things both for the Israelites and for us?
6. Similarly, as you diligently obey the command of the Lord you will find He blesses your obedience by directing your path and granting you favor. How have you seen this to be true in your life?
7. Write out this week's memory verse below: