

Our **Virtual**

PowerGroup

RUTH
Week 2 Study

Icebreaker

What is your reaction when someone says, “I’ve heard all about you?” Do you think it will be good, bad, or embarrassing?

Passage 1 Ruth 2:1-3

In chapter 1, Naomi made the plans and stated the course of action, and her daughters-in-law responded. Now we can see that somewhere along the journey or upon the women’s arrival in Bethlehem, a new working relationship has developed. Here Ruth takes on the more active role. By stating her intention in a way that seeks permission and blessing (“Let me go . . .”), Ruth continues to show respect to her mother-in-law as family matriarch, and she clearly wants Naomi’s approval and support.

Reflection What words does that author use to describe Ruth?

What do you think the storyteller wants us to learn about Ruth?

Passage 2 Ruth 2:4-7

Boaz calls on the Lord to bless his workers, and they return the blessing in kind. He greets his workers first—significantly, he asks God to bless them—showing respect and attention to those who labor in his fields. Later verses show that Boaz provides a shelter for them from the blazing sun and plenty of water for them to drink without having to carry their own

Reflection How did the overseer respond to Boaz’ Question?

What was it about Ruth that drew Boaz’s attention?

Why would he ask to whom she belonged?

What was she doing?

What did the overseer say about her?

Passage 3 Ruth 2:4-8

Boaz called Ruth “My daughter”—possibly to set her at ease by using familial language. Biblical scholars note that another possible explanation could be that there was a wide age difference between Ruth and Boaz, perhaps at least fifteen years. After greeting her warmly with the words “My daughter,” Boaz says, “Listen to me.” While he is clearly someone who is used to giving order

Reflection What was the purpose of his instructions?

How did Boaz protect Ruth?

How did Boaz provide for Ruth?

Why do you believe that Boaz shows so much kindness to Ruth?

How does Ruth respond to the generosity Boaz shows her?

How does this relate to the generosity that God shows us?

Application

Life was hard for anyone who had become poor and couldn't find paying work. Gleaning provided an opportunity for people in need to go out to the fields, gather up what they could find, and thus have something to eat. It also gave them an opportunity to work for their food without begging.

How did gleaning give the poor dignity?

Whose responsibility was it to provide gleaning?

What correlations to this are available in today's world?