

Our **Virtual**

PowerGroup

RUTH
Week 3 Study

Icebreaker

What would be the question you would have for someone you are on a first date with?

Passage 1 Ruth 2:1-11

Verse 11 contains one of this story's more encouraging and hopeful elements. Boaz was impressed with Ruth for reasons that go beyond beauty, heritage, culture, status, and wealth. We cannot forget that Ruth was a foreign woman from the enemy land of Moab with no husband, children, money, or elite status. Yet one of the most powerful men in Bethlehem noticed her for something that transcends culture, beauty, and riches—her character.

Reflection Why was Ruth so surprised by Boaz's favor? v. 10

Why did Boaz show Ruth such kindness? v. 11

How do the reasons Boaz listed for noticing Ruth significantly differ from ours today?

Passage 2 Ruth 2:12-13

Many of us have been touched by the tender image of finding refuge under the wings of Almighty God. We can't forget that, physically speaking, it might have been easier for Ruth to have found refuge in the strong arms of Boaz. But as wonderful and powerful as Boaz was, he realized that only God could truly repay and reward her. Boaz could offer water, grain, and protection, but only God could pull off the much bigger blessing of reward and redemption. Ruth is not the only one who has found shelter under the wings of Yahweh. Read these psalms and answer on what their meaning is for you.

Reflection Psalm 36:7

Psalm 61:4

Psalm 91:1-16

How did you come to find refuge under the wings of God?

Passage 3 Ruth 2:14-16

In verse 13 Boaz invites Ruth to a meal. This was an extraordinary invitation because it far exceeded what the law required. Suddenly, Ruth found herself sitting at Boaz's table, not among the gleaners, but among the reapers! This part of Ruth's story reminds me of King David and the astonishing kindness he showed to a young man named Mephibosheth. I want you to read it for yourself because the similarities are striking, and its message inspiring. (For a little background, this event took place after the death of Jonathan, King David's dearest friend.) Let's take the time to Read 2 Samuel 9:1-12 together.

Reflection What are all the similarities you can find between Ruth's and Mephibosheth's stories.

Have you ever considered it a remarkable honor to be invited to someone's table?

Application

Naomi seemed to hold Ruth's safety and future as her primary concern. (see Ruth 1:8-15) But a glimmer of hope had also crept in—Ruth would be able gather enough food to keep them alive for the foreseeable future, thanks to the generosity and protection of Boaz. During the barley and wheat harvests (probably from late April through June) Ruth continued to glean in Boaz's fields. And, keeping her word to Naomi, she "lived with her mother-in-law" in Bethlehem (2:23).

- 1. How have you witnessed God change the circumstances in your life by you choosing to be obedient to Him?**
- 2. Who is God calling you to show kindness to? Who has God placed in your life that you can go above and beyond for in order to show them God's grace?**