

Ruth 2

Day 1

Boaz Inquires about Ruth. Read Ruth 2:1-7

1. List what you learn about Boaz from 2:1.



FYI: Great/mighty OT:1368 *gibbor*

"An adjective meaning brave, strong, mighty. The word refers to God Himself as el gibbor, usually rendered as the mighty God (Isa. 10:21, Jer. 32:18)...The word means manly, strong, vigorous and was a term of approbation (Gen. 10:8; 1 Sam. 14:52; Ps. 112:2)." - The Complete Word Study Dictionary NT

Kinsman OT:4129 *mowda`* (; an acquaintance:

Family OT:4940 *mishpachah*; a family, i.e. circle of relatives

2. What did Ruth volunteer to do? 2:2 What does this reveal about the circumstances Naomi and Ruth were in? What does this say about Ruth's character? (See 2 Thessalonians 3:10)

FYI: "The status of a widow in the ancient Middle East was difficult at best. In times of trouble, the widow's situation was intolerable. That was why God commanded His people to care for the widow and the orphan (Deut. 24:19-22). As a relative, Boaz could stand up for the rights of these two women." - The Nelson Study Bible (444)

"From Ruth's example we can draw three principles that show us how to proceed during difficult times. First, face the situation realistically, and evaluate your assets. Second, exert yourself- do what you can. Third, look for and accept the Lord's leading – when you find an open door, go through it." - Margaret Hess (T 27)

3. From Leviticus 19:9-10 and Deuteronomy 24:19-22, fill in the following about what God said to leave unharvested and for whom it was left..

What was left unharvested	Who was provided for

- From the above, in what ways did Ruth qualify for gleaning?
- How do these laws address the problem of work and those in need?

4. What *just happened* in:

- 2:3
- 2:4

FYI: *she happened/as it turned out* OT:4745 *miqreh*; something met with, i.e. an accident or fortune

Just then/behold OT:2009 *hinneh*; An interjection meaning behold, look, now; It is used often and expresses strong feelings, surprise, hope, expectation, certainty" - The Complete Word Study Dictionary OT

5. What would you say about Boaz's relationship with his servants? 2:4? (See Colossians 4:1) What does this indicate about his character?

6. What did Boaz want to know about Ruth? From the servant's report, what positive things were implied about her? 2:6,7 (How well known was Ruth by the community?)

Applying the Word: *When has God asked you to do something that seemed insignificant or beneath you but eventually led to something better? How long did you have to be faithful in the small things?*

Have you ever felt like a foreigner, isolated or in need of friends? How could Ruth's example help you?

Day 2

Boaz Provides for Ruth. Read Ruth 2:8-16

7. List the instructions Boaz gave Ruth and the ways he provided and protected her. How concerned would you say he was about her?

2:8-9a	
2:9b	
2:9c	

8. How do you think the words “*do not go...but stay here*” (2:8) sounded to Ruth - the foreigner, the Moabitess? (Compare John 15:4)

9. How did Ruth respond to Boaz’s care and why was she surprised by it? 2:10

- What did she say she had “*found*”? (What had she said she wanted to find? 2:2)

FYI: *favor/grace* OT:2580 *chen*; graciousness, i.e. subjective (kindness, favor) or objective (beauty)

10. Who is favored or graced in the following?

- Luke 1:28
- Romans 5:2; Ephesians 1:6,8 (“*accepted, given, bestowed*” is the same word as “*favored*” in Luke 1:28)

11. Why did Boaz want to bless Ruth? 2:11,12 (Consider: Who would have been able to tell the people of the town about all of this?)

- What greater blessings did he wish for her? What did he recognize about her beliefs? 2:12 (See Psalm 91:4)

12. How did David express this protection? Psalm 61:3,4; 63:6-8 (See also Luke 13:34)

- How would you explain what seeking refuge or dwelling in the shelter of the Lord’s wings means to you?

FYI: *Seek refuge/trust in* – OT:2620 *chacah*; to flee for protection [compare OT:982]; figuratively, to confide in

13. What did Boaz’s words mean to Ruth? 2:13 Why were they especially gracious?

14. What additional actions did Boaz take in blessing Ruth? 2:14

15. What extras did Boaz arrange for Ruth to have? 2:15-16 (Compare Deuteronomy 11:15; Ephesians 3:20)

- 2:15
- 2:16

FYI: reproach/rebuke/stop/insult OT:3637 *kalam*; properly, to wound; but only figuratively, to taunt or insult: KJV - be (make) ashamed, blush, be confounded, be put to confusion, hurt, reproach, shame.

"I love the '*handfuls of purpose*' of the King James version. Actually, the Hebrew suggests more than '*let fall*.' The reapers were actually to draw out grain for her from the bundles...At the same time they were to find no fault with her for taking so much. Thus Boaz protected Ruth's pride. He made her increase appear to be the result of her own hard work. We can learn from him about how to give to someone in need." - Margaret Hess (65)

"Boaz went beyond the letter of the law. He not only let Ruth glean; he also amply supplied her with food. Here we see how the law could function in the lives of godly people. It was a guide to righteous living...Boaz exhibited the highest form of charity by giving in secret so as not to shame the recipient." - The Nelson Study Bible (445)

16. How do you picture this interaction between Boaz and Ruth? What impressed you the most?

17. Instead of voicing demands, complaints, or self-pity, what focus and attitude has Ruth shown so far? How difficult do you think this would have been?

FYI: "Boaz saw accurately into Ruth's heart. He understood her great forsaking, her great choice, her great embracing. He felt that God should reward Ruth for her trust in Him. Curiously, Boaz himself would prove the answer to his own prayers for Ruth." - Margaret Hess (61)

Applying the Word: *With what issues or circumstances in your life do you need to take refuge under the Lord's "wings" ("flee for protection; confide in")? What did it take for Ruth to do this? (Losses, risks, fears, doubts...) What would it take for you?*

Consider the statement, "Life is what you have, not what you wish you had." In what areas of your life could this perspective help you?

Day 3

Naomi's Response to Ruth's Bounty. Read Ruth 2:17-23

18. What traits do you see in Ruth in 2:17,18? How weary do you think she was by the end of the day?

- What was she able to share with Naomi?

Digging Deeper

For teachings about work see: Proverbs 6:6,10,11; 10:4; 12:11; 28:19. (See also 2 Thess. 3:10-13)

FYI: ephah. "Compare Exodus 16:16, 36. An ephah was ten omers, and an omer of manna was adequate for the daily needs of one man. Boaz' generosity is measured by the fact that the "handfuls of purpose" he had left for Ruth were ten times her daily need."
- Henry Morris

19. How did Naomi respond to these blessings? 2:19a

- How does Naomi's attitude compare to when she first came to Bethlehem (1:21)? What was God doing to her heart?

20. What did Naomi wish for Boaz and why? 2:20a What did she recognize about the Lord?

FYI: 'Naomi praised the Lord for His kindness, His 'loyal love.' God had not abandoned Ruth and Naomi. Instead, He had faithfully provided for their needs. After utter despair, Naomi once again placed her hope in God."
- The Nelson Study Bible (445)

Close relative/near of kin OT:7138 *qarowb*; *near (in place, kindred or time)*

kinsman/guardian/closest relative OT:1350 *ga'al*, to redeem, i.e. to be the next of kin (and as such to buy back a relative's property, marry his widow, etc.)

21. What amazing information about Boaz did Naomi reveal to Ruth? 2:20b (This is the middle verse in Ruth.) What would this mean for them?

22. Consider: What self-serving reasons could any relative have had for ignoring or neglecting them? What fears might Naomi have had about people responding negatively to Ruth?

23. What other instructions had Boaz given Ruth? 2:21 What comfort would this have given Ruth and Naomi?

- How did Naomi respond to Boaz's instructions? 2:22 What does this say about how Naomi must have felt when first allowing Ruth out to glean (1:21)?

24. How well were Naomi and Ruth provided for? 2:23

25. What kind of interaction do you see going on between Naomi and Ruth? How would you describe this mother-in-law/daughter-in-law relationship? How has it grown?

26. How powerful were Boaz, Ruth and Naomi's words to each other? How had Boaz and Naomi given Ruth a sense of respect and achievement?

27. In the following verses, underline how we should speak to and treat each other.

- Isaiah 50:4a The Sovereign LORD has given me an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary.
- Romans 14: 19 So then, let us pursue what makes for peace and for building up one another. NET
- Ephesians 4:29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. NIV
- Colossians 4:6 Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

Digging Deeper

What example did Jesus give by His words? Luke 4:22

Applying the Word: On a scale from 1-10, how would you rate the thoughtfulness of your words? Who gets the best of your words? With whom do you need to be more careful? To whom have you given words of encouragement even when they didn't deserve it?

Challenge this week: Pick one person whom you encourage by listening to, spending time with, or doing something for them. **Or** If you've been too heavy-handed and demanding in some relationship, try giving that person some space. Appreciate his/her differences and focus on what you like - and then let the person know!

Day 4

Kinsman Redeemer

Leviticus 25:23-28:3

'The land, moreover, shall not be sold permanently, for the land is Mine; for you are but aliens and sojourners with Me. 24 Thus for every piece of your property, you are to provide for the redemption of the land.

25 'If a fellow countryman of yours becomes so poor he has to sell part of his property, then his nearest kinsman is to come and buy back what his relative has sold. 26 Or in case a man has no kinsman, but so recovers his means as to find sufficient for its redemption, 27 then he shall calculate the years since its sale and refund the balance to the man to whom he sold it, and so return to his property.

28 But if he has not found sufficient means to get it back for himself, then what he has sold shall remain in the hands of its purchaser until the year of jubilee; but at the jubilee it shall revert, that he may return to his property.' NAS

28. Briefly summarize what is written about the sale or transfer of land.

- 25:23
- 25:24
- 25:25
- 25:26,27
- 25:28

29. What would these laws do to keep the tribes and families' inheritance in tact? (See Numbers 36:7)

- What evils would these laws restrict? (To what does broad confiscation of land by a few lead?)

30. How was a needy member of the family to be cared for? Leviticus 25:35-37

31. What reasons did God give for these laws?

- Leviticus 25:17,18
- Leviticus 25:23
- Leviticus 25:55

32. What law did the Lord give about a woman whose husband had died before they had children? Deuteronomy 25:5,6

33. What do these laws tell you about the value God puts on families? His care for women and children?

34. What do these laws tell you about the kind of hope stirred up in Naomi after seeing the kindness of one of their “relatives, a guardian redeemer”?

35. Underline what kind of hope we can have in any situation.

- Romans 8:28 “And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.
- Luke 12:6 Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.
- Hebrews 13:5b,6 ...God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"
- Isaiah 41:10 So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.
- Psalm 25:3 No one whose hope is in you will ever be put to shame
- Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.
- Ephesians 3:20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen

Applying the Word: In what ways have people reached out to help you during times of need? What do you see as one of the best ways you can reach out to others?