

# Ruth

## Lesson 2 Ruth and Boaz Ruth 2-4

**Memorize the TRUTH!**

But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.” Ruth 1:16

### Ruth Finds Food in Boaz’s Field – Ruth 2:1-7

#### Day 1

1. a. Who was Boaz, and how was he related to Naomi?  
b. What do the greetings between Boaz and the harvesters tell you about their relationship to God and to one another?  
c. How should our relationship with God affect our relationships with others?  
1 John 4:7-12
2. a. What command from God was Ruth relying upon to get food for herself and Naomi  
b. What were the promised blessings for those who obeyed God’s command?  
Deuteronomy 24:19  
c. What qualities do you observe in Ruth’s life from this passage?

### Learn the TRUTH!

The Lord blessed Ruth because of her love and devotion toward Naomi and God’s people. After Ruth’s first husband died, God provided Boaz to be her husband. Their son was King David’s grandfather! God is able to do more than we can think or imagine! May we be faithful to the one who holds the key to our future.

### Ruth Finds Favor With Boaz – Ruth 2:8-16

#### Day 2

3. a. What advice did Boaz give Ruth, and how did he care for her needs?  
b. What connection do you see between Boaz’s actions and his words in verse 12?
4. a. How did Ruth recognize and acknowledge verbally what Boaz had done for her?  
b. Although Boaz had not met Ruth before, how did he know her and what did he know about her?  
c. List at least three things you have learned about Boaz.

**Naomi's Plan  
Ruth 2:17-3:5**

**Day 3**

5. a. Describe the relationship Naomi and Ruth shared with each other.  
  
b. How was Naomi's attitude in verses 17-21 different than her attitude in Ruth 1:21?
  
6. a. Describe Naomi's plan and why she believed it was necessary.  
  
b. What was Ruth's response to Naomi's plan?  
  
c. Is there a quality in Ruth that you would like to develop in your life? How would you do it?

**The Plan Is Successful  
Ruth 3:6-18**

**Day 4**

7. a. How and when did Boaz discover Ruth's presence?  
  
b. Why do you think Ruth asked Boaz to spread the corners of his garment over her?  
Ezekiel 16:8
  
8. How did Boaz show his approval of Ruth, and how did he accept responsibility for her?
  
9. How does Naomi's advice to Ruth in verse 18 apply to us?

Psalm 37:3-4

**Ruth and Boaz Are Married  
Ruth 4**

**Day 5**

10. Boaz is called Ruth's kinsman-redeemer. How is Christ our Kinsman-Redeemer?  
Philippians 2:7-8  
  
1 Peter 1:18-21
  
11. a. When a son was born to Ruth and Boaz, how did the women acknowledge his importance to Naomi?  
  
b. What two things would the baby do for Naomi and how did Naomi respond to him?
  
12. Boaz had hoped that God would bless and reward Ruth. Share how that hope was fulfilled.  
Ruth 2:12; 3:10

Matthew 1:3-6

**Live the TRUTH!**

**Life can be very difficult and there may be times when we experience challenges as we follow the Lord. Naomi and Ruth did. No matter what circumstances we face, we can trust that God is at work in our lives. Jesus said: "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working" John 5:17. May we rest in knowing that Jesus is in control of every detail of our lives and may we put our hope in Him at all times!**

## Commentary Ruth Lesson 2

In Ruth 2-4, we see God's care for His people: Naomi and Ruth arrive in Bethlehem during the barley harvest. Widows in ancient Israel often had a hard time supporting themselves, so Ruth takes the initiative by collecting leftover grain. Harvest gleanings were to be left for the poor to gather (Leviticus 23:22), which benefited everyone involved. Landowners were blessed by God as they allowed their ample harvest to be shared (Deuteronomy 24:19), and the poor were fed. By God's divine guidance, Ruth comes to the field of Boaz, a wealthy relative of Elimelech. Being closely related to Naomi, and therefore Ruth as well through marriage, Boaz (or another closer relative) is obligated to take care of them (see Leviticus 25:25).

Boaz, a godly man, acts kindly toward Ruth. He tells her to gather grain only in his field and warns his men not to touch her. He knew of Ruth's good reputation even before he now meets her. Her appeal goes far beyond outward appearance; she has a genuinely humble, grateful spirit. She also, like Abraham, has the faith and courage to go into an unknown situation (see Hebrews 11:8-9) because of her confidence in the God of Israel. Although her circumstances seem hopeless, she believes she can find refuge in God. Boaz, apparently much older than Ruth, treats her protectively, like a daughter. He invites her to share lunch with his servant girls, and tells his workers to let her glean among them instead of her having to stay back and pick up leftovers as the law said. He even tells them to drop grain for her to gather.

The close relationship between Ruth and Naomi is evident: Ruth keeps some lunch to share with Naomi and confides to her everything that happened in the field. Naomi wants to find Ruth a home where she will be provided for. The word "home" here means *husband*; "well provided for" implies material and spiritual blessings. In her concern for Ruth's welfare, Naomi has forgotten her own sorrow.

We know that sadness such as Naomi had will often lift as the afflicted person reaches out to help someone else. In Israel's culture, the nearest male relative, or kinsman-redeemer, had the responsibility to care for a widow if necessary, by marrying her, if necessary, as well as providing for her. Deuteronomy 25:5-10 states that if a brother died childless, his widow should not marry outside the family. (*Ach*, the Hebrew word for *brother*, also means *relative* or *kinsman*.) Naomi did not have a third son who could marry Ruth; therefore, Boaz was in the line of potential kinsman-redeemers. Naomi's instructions to Ruth in 3:3-4 are not tactics to trap Boaz into marriage. They merely remind him of the existing situation and his possible duty to do something about it.

Ruth responds eagerly and obediently to her mother-in-law's plan. She knows that Naomi's instructions are appropriate, as they can help fulfill the duty to keep her dead husband's name alive. Washing herself and applying perfume, she puts on her "best clothes" — probably a large outer cloak that will keep her warm, as well as protect her identity. She goes to the festivities that follow the threshing of grain and waits until Boaz lies down to sleep.

### **Check It Out:**

In Ruth's day, it was the responsibility of the nearest kinsman to take care of a widow by providing for her, possibly even by marrying her. Boaz was considered a kinsman-redeemer for Ruth (2:20).

Boaz reminds us of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer! Jesus became our kinsman when He left heaven to come into this world to die for our sins (Philippians 2:6-8).

Jesus calls those who have turned to Him in faith His "bride" (the church) (Ephesians 5:25-29; Revelation 19:7). We are promised that one day we will share a wedding feast with Him (Revelation 19:9).

Boaz's willingness to marry Ruth is a foreshadowing of the relationship between Christ and His bride, the church. As we see Boaz's kindness toward Ruth, let's praise God for all He has in store for us: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him" (1 Corinthians 2:9).

Why does Ruth uncover Boaz's feet before lying down nearby? Perhaps so that he will get cold and wake up and notice her. Boaz does awake during the night and is shocked to see Ruth. She identifies herself, asking him to spread the corner of his garment over her. By this request, she is proposing marriage: When a man placed the corner of his garment over a girl, it signified his readiness to marry her. Boaz responds to Ruth warmly, but says a closer kinsman-redeemer must have the first opportunity to wed her. Boaz vows that if the man is not willing to redeem her, he himself will do so.

Concerned for her good reputation, Boaz tells Ruth to leave the threshing floor before she can be recognized and gives her barley to share with Naomi. Hearing Ruth's report, Naomi wisely advises her to wait patiently. Waiting is hard, but God cares deeply for us and will work out His will in due time. The next day, Boaz discusses the situation at the town gate with the closer kinsman-redeemer and ten elders (heads of prominent families). A family's welfare was the concern of the entire community; so they all wanted to help Naomi as well as settle legalities regarding Ruth.

Boaz challenges his relative to show his commitment to the welfare of both women by buying Naomi's land for Ruth's heir, and by providing for Ruth. The man refuses, and Boaz explains everything to the elders. He speaks of "acquiring" Ruth, but recognizes the distinction between Ruth and the land: she is to be his life-partner in the sacred task of building a home. The elders approve Boaz's intention and ask God's blessings on them. Their reference to Rachel and Leah indicates that these elders know the Pentateuch—unlike many people in the time of the judges. They also mention Ephrathah, the area around Bethlehem, which was to be the birthplace of the Messiah (see Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:6).

The statement, "the LORD enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son" (4:13) reflects the Hebrew belief that children are a gift from God (see Psalm 127:3-5a). The arrival of Ruth and Boaz's first child, Obed, causes great joy among the women in Bethlehem. Naomi is especially happy. She had already been blessed with a daughter-in-law who was "better to [her] than seven sons" (4:15). Now she has a secure home, plus a baby to love and nurture.

Naomi loved Elimelech, and now she can help rear a child that came from his line. God had indeed been good to Naomi. As for Ruth, she never dreamed she would be the ancestress of King David and the Messiah (4:18-22; Matthew 1:5-16). By accepting the God of Israel and obeying His direction through Naomi and Boaz, Ruth received in great blessings.



**Ruth took refuge in the Lord, the God of Israel (2:12). Like Ruth, let's come to the Lord for refuge. He is our stronghold in the day of trouble, our only security in an unstable world. Let's give our burdens to Him.**

**Boaz "redeemed" Ruth, providing for all of her needs — physical, social, and spiritual. We have been redeemed through the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. In Him, we have become God's sons and daughters (Ephesians 1:5). We have been blessed with every spiritual blessing (Ephesians 1:3).**

**As her husband, Boaz loved Ruth faithfully for the rest of his life. We need to rest in knowing that Christ loves us — not just for "now," but for "ever." Like Ruth, we too will be rewarded for seeking and following the One who loves us with an everlasting love. Boaz's words in Ruth 2:12 apply to us as well: "May you be richly rewarded by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge."**



**How would you relate all that happened to Naomi and Ruth to the truths affirmed in Romans 8:28?**