

Small Group Material - Ruth 2

Ruth meets Boaz

Welcome

Naomi was bereaved and grieving, feeling empty and bitter. You might not have been feeling those things, but when have you experienced God bringing a 'Ruth' into your life to show his kindness to you?

Worship

Read Psalm 65 together. Turn it into prayers of praise and thanksgiving. Then sing: Great is thy faithfulness. Here are two possibilities... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2eQ1oal44wU> - this one has different words for the verses or https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gP38Js_RloQ - traditional words.

Word

Read Ruth 1.22 - 2.23

1. What signs of hope do you see as this chapter opens? ch1.22, 2.1-3.
2. Read Leviticus 19.9-10. What does this tell you about God's heart?

A) 2. 4-16

1. What do you most admire about Boaz in this story?
2. What do you most admire about Ruth in this story?
3. How has Ruth's reputation paved the way for Boaz's positive impression of her?

B) 2.17-23

1. An ephah weighed about 35 pounds. Imagine yourself, as Ruth, carrying back a sack of that much barley. What are you feeling physically and emotionally?
2. v.20 is a turning point in the story when new possibilities open up. How does the revelation of who Boaz is take on new significance and show God's hand? In what ways is Boaz a 'type' of Christ?
3. What new possibilities have you seen the Lord opening up in your own life recently?
Ruth accepts Boaz's offer and continues to glean through the barley and wheat harvests for a period of 2-3 months. How will you pursue any new possibilities that the Lord is opening up for you?

To consider: What mechanisms does the UK have for providing for the hungry and the homeless? What is your view of beggars? What can we do?

Witness

Ask God to lead you to people who need to be reminded that God still loves them. Are there steps you could take (perhaps as a group) to help them.

Open Doors Handmade Petition. Ruth was *noticed* by Boaz. The exploitation and violence against women goes 'unnoticed' in many countries. Open Doors (one of the ministries which we support as a church, year on year) is preparing a petition with a difference. We've already started to work on this and *you can join in as a group*. You will need some white fabric, fabric paint or needles and thread.

Check out: <https://www.opendoorsuk.org/act/see-change/handmade-petition/>