

# Women in the Lineage of Christ

## Week 5 – Ruth 2

### Prepare...

As you begin, take a moment to pray and focus on the Lord as you come into his presence and study his word.

You may want to use this prayer, based on Hebrews 4:12

*God, your Word is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing my soul and spirit, my joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of my heart. I want to hear you through your word now.*

### Begin...

Read through the text twice. First read to gain a general understanding of the passage. Read a second time slowly, looking at each verse in detail.

**To make sure you have understood the story in Ruth, answer the following questions (in your head or on paper).**

1. Who was Boaz?
2. What was Ruth doing in his field?
3. When Boaz learns who Ruth is, what does he tell her to do (v. 8, 14, 16)?
4. Why does he say these things (v.11-12)?
5. What did Ruth take home to Naomi?
6. What was Naomi's reaction to Ruth when she heard about her day?
7. How long did Ruth glean in Boaz's field?

### Memory Verse for the Week...

*Jeremiah 29:11*

*"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

## Study Questions

### Historical note

The Law of Moses required landowners to leave what the harvesters missed so that the poor, the foreigner, the widow, and the fatherless could glean for their needs.

Deut. 24:19-25 "When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for the alien, the fatherless and the widow, so that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands. When you beat the olives from your trees, do not go over the branches a second time. Leave what remains for the alien, the fatherless and the widow. When you harvest the grapes in your vineyard, do not go over the vines again. Leave what remains for the alien, the fatherless and the widow. Remember that you were slaves in Egypt. That is why I command you to do this."

### Some scriptures for contemplation...

#### Jeremiah 29:11

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

#### Psalm 36:7-9

"How priceless is your unfailing love! Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house; you give them drink from your river of delights. For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light."

#### 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

#### Romans 8:28

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

1. **Read v. 3.** This verse marks the turning point in the story (further accentuated when we discover Boaz is Ruth's kinsman-redeemer). God clearly lead Ruth to Boaz. The NKJV uses the words "she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz..."

Are there instances in your life when you just "happened to...", later to learn God was clearly leading? Share some examples.

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2. As widows during this time, neither Ruth nor Naomi was allowed to own land. In order to survive, Ruth proposed gleaning in the fields after the harvesters. (see historical note)

Throughout the Bible we see that God looks out for the poor. For a few examples, look up Luke 6:20, Galatians 2:10, James 2:5

What does our society do to remember the less fortunate? What can we personally do to imitate God's compassion?

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3. In this chapter we are introduced to Boaz. Note below:  
what you learn about him

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how he relates to other people

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specific instances of his kindness to Ruth

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4. Boaz goes beyond the normal respect of the gleaner's law in his generosity towards Ruth. How might his family background have influenced his attitude towards foreigners? (See Matthew 1:5)

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God often uses past experiences to give us greater sensitivity to those around us. Give examples of your past influencing how you relate to others.

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5. In **verses 19-20**, Naomi learns that their benefactor is Boaz. Not only is Boaz a man of upstanding character, he is also a kinsman-redeemer. There is hope. Read the sidebar regarding kinsman redeemer and corresponding verses.

Describe the parallel between Ruth and Boaz and Christ and us.

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6. What additional information on Ruth’s character does this chapter reveal?

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7. How does Ruth’s loyalty to Naomi, and Boaz’s loyalty to Ruth reflect God’s loyalty to us?

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8. Take a moment to praise God for the hope we have because of Him.

### Kinsman-redeemer

The term “kinsman-redeemer” in the Old Testament referred to the male family member responsible for protecting the interests of needy members of the extended family: ie, provide an heir for a brother who died (Deut 25:5-10), redeem land that a poor relative sold outside the family (Lev. 25:25-28), redeem a relative who had been sold into slavery (Lev. 25:47-49), and avenge the killing of a relative (Num. 35:19-21).

The original text in Hebrew for the term kinsman-redeemer was *ga'al* meaning to free or redeem. We find this same word used multiple times in the Bible when referring to God.

### More scriptures...

**Ps. 44:26**

“Rise up and help us; redeem us because of your unfailing love.”

**Ps. 49:7-8 and 15**

“No man can redeem the life of another or give to God a ransom for him—the ransom for a life is costly, no payment is ever enough...But God will redeem my life from the grave; he will surely take me to himself.”

**Hosea 13:14**

“I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death. Where, O death, are your plagues? Where O grave is your destruction?”

### Personal Application