

## Ruth Chapter 2: Part 1 (Verses 1-13)

### How to Glean God's Purpose and Provision for Your Life

Ruth was an integral piece in the completion of God's glorious design of redemption for the world.

God in His sovereignty holds each piece of us and our lives in His hands, carefully and intentionally, making each one to fit perfectly together at just the right time, allowing not one piece to go missing from His divine plan.

#### **Step out in faith.**

Boaz's name carries three different meanings. One being strength, meaning military power and might. His name also means man of great wealth and mighty man of the Law.

This harvest season was short, and to take full advantage of it, Ruth wasted no time when she decided to go out into the fields to glean.

Ruth is a doer. She put both her love and faith in action.

She doesn't set back and wait for a handout or for God to send down a supply from heaven. She boldly takes a step of faith to do her part in providing for her and Naomi.

In order to glean the purpose and provision of God in our lives, we have to step out in faith—not knowing the outcome, but believing good will come from it, because we serve a good and gracious God.

Ruth took a step of faith, because it was dangerous. She put herself in a vulnerable position, blindly setting out by herself, not knowing which field to go to.

Although God's law made provision for the poor, the widows, and foreigners in the land to glean for food, not every landowner obeyed the law.

Five times in this short book, we see Ruth addressed as Ruth the Moabitess. This insinuates very strong racial tension with the possibility of verbal and physical abuse.

Ruth set her fears aside, and stepped out in faith, trusting God for her protection and provision.

#### **Seek and savor God's grace.**

Ruth had an absolute resolve about her to follow God. She committed herself to Naomi and to Him, and thus God would direct her steps. She stepped out in faith and then

sought His grace, looking to find it! She looked to find someone who might show kindness and let her glean.

Boaz shows up in the field and right away notices Ruth. One must wonder is it her foreignness that catches his eye, or is it her beauty? It's obvious there is something different about her that makes her stand out from the others.

Boaz asks his worker whose is she, meaning does she belong to someone and where does she fit into society.

Whether it was her beauty or character that made him make the first move, it's obvious something peaked his interest in her.

Boaz approaches Ruth, and addresses her as, "my daughter". This was a gesture of kindness and a clue that Boaz saw her differently—not as a foreigner as did everyone else, including Ruth herself. Boaz saw no racial barriers.

Not only did Boaz make a way of provision for Ruth, but he has also put his cloak of protection around her.

Boaz affirmed Ruth's loyalty and dependence on the Lord, trusting Him to shelter her under His mighty wings, when she made the commitment to leave her home and all other gods behind.

She was an outsider, but when she turned towards the one true living God, God didn't turn her away. He not only provided a place of refuge, but a place of belonging. This welcome from Boaz was like the Lord welcoming her into his family. She was now one of His children.

Ruth found the grace and kindness she was seeking.

### **Serve with humility**

The word serve here has a double meaning. On one hand, it means to serve as in perform an act of service, and the other pertains to a response or a reaction.

Ruth being both a foreigner and a widow had every right to go and glean for food. But she didn't set out to glean with presumption, but rather with humility, requesting permission to do so. And in humility Ruth faithfully did the work.

Ruth was genuinely shocked that Boaz would take notice of her and, even more so, when he displayed incredible kindness to her.

She served with humility and also responded with humility.

David showed the same posture of gratitude as his great grandmother Ruth. Both served the Lord with humility and were overwhelmed by the grace that was bestowed upon them.

It's often in our faithfulness that God proves His.

Though He allowed Ruth to have a significant part in His plan of redemption, that didn't mean she was exempt from suffering and hard times. But there was purpose in her pain and loss.

It's our passion (our love and loyalty) to Christ that defines us, not our purposes.

### **Homework Questions**

1. Do you view your life as a part of God's grander design? Why or why not.
2. Explain why it's important that our lives be a part of something bigger than ourselves.
3. Has there ever been a season in your life that made you uniquely different for God's glory? Explain.
4. Describe a season in your life that seemed to make no sense at the time, but now looking back can see its purpose. What truths did you learn?
5. Does knowing God's sovereignty over every season of your life bring you comfort? Why or why not.
6. Describe a time you set your fears aside and stepped out in faith? What was the outcome?
7. Like love, why is faith an action?

Resources: Esther and Ruth by Iain M. Duguid; The book of Ruth by Robert L. Hubbard Jr.; Ruth by J. Vernon McGee; The Wiersbe Bible Commentary; Systematic Theology by Wayne Grudem; NLT Parallel Study Bible; [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com);

8. Is God's grace something you seek (intentionally look for) daily? Explain why or why not.
9. Describe a time you recently experienced God's grace.
10. How does seeking God's grace help us better know His purpose and provision for our life?
11. When was the last time you savored God's grace?
12. Why do you think Ruth caught Boaz's eye?
13. List and discuss the characteristics of Boaz that makes him a representation of Christ in this story.
14. Which do you think Ruth appreciated more: food and protection, or the kindness and sense of belonging? Explain. (No wrong answers...just thought this would be good for discussion)
15. Ruth's job of gleaning was hard, menial work, but she done it faithfully and with the right attitude. What does this say about her character?
16. List the ways that Ruth displayed humility. In what ways can you learn from Ruth's humility?

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