

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, January 11, 2009

Passage: Ruth 2

Memory Passage: Psalm 36:7

TODAY: *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

DAY 1 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Ruth 2:1-7.** What is being foreshadowed in verse 1? What kind of man is Boaz according to verse 1? Again in verse 2, what is being foreshadowed in Ruth's words?

(b) What does it mean "to glean"? Read Leviticus 19:9-10 and Deuteronomy 24:19-22. What had the Lord instructed the Israelites to do in these verses? Why? What does Boaz's obedience to these verses tell us about his character? How is Ruth portrayed? What is Ruth's continued attitude toward Naomi?

(c) In verse 3, it says that Ruth "happened to come" to Boaz's field. Is this a coincident? What other clues let you know this?

(d) Is Boaz aware of who Ruth is? What is her reputation according to verse 6? What reputation has she gained from her actions that day?

(e) *Think about it:* Is God in control of Ruth and Naomi's circumstances? What are some things that show that He is? Seeing how God works is always done best looking backwards. What has been an instance where God has worked providentially in your life? We see also in the passage that one's reputation often precedes oneself. What kind of reputation do you have? Is it one that is honoring to God? Do other people see your actions as Godly? Ask God to remind you of how much He is in control and what things you do that might be earning you a bad reputation.

(f) *Family:* Read Ruth 2:1-7. Talk about what it means to glean and read one of the passages from above. What does it say about Ruth that she was willing to go and work hard? What do you think is going to happen with Boaz and Ruth? What does it mean to foreshadow? How is that working in this story? Where is God in this story? What is He up to? Pray that you would be obedient and faithful like Ruth and trust in the Lord's providential blessings.

DAY 2 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Ruth 2:8-13.** What commands does Boaz give to Ruth? What will it mean for Ruth to glean with Boaz's own servant girls? Why would Ruth be vulnerable to attacks from other men? Does Ruth deserve what she is being offered?

(b) How does Ruth respond to Boaz's generosity? Why is she so shocked at Boaz's graciousness? Why would a foreigner not expect to be treated so well (Deuteronomy 15:3; 23:3, 20)?

(c) Why has Boaz done what he has done according to verses 11-12? The phrase "under whose wings" is not a unique phrase to Ruth. Read Psalm 36:7; 57:1; 91:4. What picture does this give us of Ruth and the way she is seen to relate to God?

(d) Even after Boaz's explanation, how does Ruth respond? Again, what kind of character does she express?

(e) *Think about it:* What attitude does Boaz have toward Ruth? Do you think you would have been as gracious as Boaz was? Why do we not reward faithfulness to God when we see it? What is it that often keeps us from having such a grateful attitude like Ruth has? How did she see herself? Do you see yourself as someone who deserves a certain amount of respect? Or benefits? What can we learn from Ruth?

(f) *Family:* Read Ruth 2:8-13. Talk about what all Boaz does for Ruth. How is this exceptional and gracious? Talk about Ruth's response to Boaz. What kind of attitude does she have? Ruth and Boaz are good examples of godliness in this passage. What can we learn from Boaz and from Ruth? Pray together that you might remember that we are in the place of Ruth in respect to God and that He has been so much more gracious than Boaz even was to Ruth.

DAY 3 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Ruth 2:14-16.** Boaz has just been incredibly generous with Ruth. How does this passage add to his generosity? Is it significant that he invited her to eat with him and the reapers?

(b) How is Boaz providing for Ruth? Does he provide only the minimum?

(c) What does Boaz tell his young men to do? Does Boaz's favor go beyond the Law's requirement (Leviticus 19:9-10; 23:22; Deuteronomy 24:19)?

(d) *Think about it:* One way of looking at Boaz is as though he foreshadows Christ and acts as Christ acts toward us. What can we learn about God's favor toward us through this comparison with Boaz? List some of them. How is God even more gracious than Boaz? Meditate on God's graciousness today.

(e) *Family*: Read Ruth 2:14-16. Talk about Boaz's graciousness. What did he do that went above and beyond the call of duty? Read 1 John 4:9-10. What has God done that was above and beyond what He was required to do? What are some ways that Boaz acts like Jesus? Thank God for sending His Son and pray that you would extend the grace that you have received to others around you.

DAY 4 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Ruth 2:17-23.** What was Naomi's disposition when Ruth left to go glean at the beginning of the chapter? What all does Ruth bring back from the harvest? (note: an ephah is about 5.5 gallons or about 29 pounds of barley which is enough food for two people for 2 weeks) How does Naomi react to this abundance of barley and food?

(b) Who does Naomi bless first? How does she respond to Ruth's next statement? What has happened to Naomi's bitterness by the end of verse 20? Has she already begun to see God's provision for her? What clues us into it?

(c) *Think about it*: Naomi was bitter because she felt like God had turned against her, but was God really ever against her? Have you ever felt like Naomi, only to realize God was working behind the scenes all along? Does Naomi recognize God's graciousness at first glance? How does bitterness blind us to the true blessings of God? Have you been recognizing God's blessing when they come?

(d) *Family*: Read Ruth 1:15-18. Talk about Naomi and her reaction to Ruth's news. Why is it such a turning point for Naomi? Are we good at recognizing God's graciousness when it happens? What are some ways that God has shown His favor upon you and your family recently? Thank God that He is faithful and generous in all that He does.

DAY 5 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Ruth 2:17-23.** List the different ways in which God has blessed Naomi and Ruth. Read verse 21. Do you think that God's blessings on Ruth and Naomi are finished?

(b) Has any of what has happened been just by chance? What does this say about God's character and the role He plays in lives of individuals?

(c) *Family*: Read Ruth 2. How has God already begun to reveal his provision for Ruth and Naomi? Was this something that was unexpected? Talk together as a family about how the Lord has and is providing and showing His graciousness to you.

DAY 6 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

(f) *Think back through what you have learned each day this week.* Read Ruth 2. What has God shown you this week? Have you begun to see how God is being gracious in your own life? Have you had the attitude of Ruth, who sought to serve rather than sulk? Have you been like Boaz, who was gracious rather than selfish? Do you see God's plan for your life? Take some time and ask God to refocus your heart and mind on Him and His will.

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Unbelievable Grace
“Under the wings of God”