

Story Time - Read the story to the children
Lesson 68: RUTH GLEANS THE FIELD
RUTH 2

One day, Ruth said to Naomi, "Let me see if I can find someone who will let me pick up the grain left in the fields by the harvest workers." Naomi answered, "Go ahead, my daughter." So right away, Ruth went out to pick up grain in a field owned by Boaz. He was a relative of Naomi's husband Elimelech, as well as a rich and important man. When Boaz left Bethlehem and went out to his field, he said to the harvest workers, "The LORD bless you!" They replied, "And may the LORD bless you!" Then Boaz asked the man in charge of the harvest workers, "Who is that young woman?" The man answered, "She is the one who came back from Moab with Naomi. She asked if she could pick up grain left by the harvest workers, and she has been working all morning without a moment's rest." Boaz went over to Ruth and said, "I think it would be best for you not to pick up grain in anyone else's field. Stay here with the women and follow along behind them, as they gather up what the men have cut. I have warned the men not to bother you, and whenever you are thirsty, you can drink from the water jars they have filled." Ruth bowed down to the ground and said, "You know I come from another country. Why are you so good to me?" Boaz answered, "I've heard how you've helped your mother-in-law ever since your husband died. You even left your own father and mother to come and live in a foreign land among people you don't know. I pray that the LORD God of Israel will reward you for what you have done. And now that you have come to Him for protection, I pray that He will bless you." Ruth replied, "Sir, it's good of you to speak kindly to me and make me feel so welcome. I'm not even one of your servants." At mealtime Boaz said to Ruth, "Come, eat with us. Have some bread and dip it in the sauce." Right away she sat down with the workers, and Boaz handed her some roasted grain. Ruth ate all she wanted and had some left over. When Ruth got up to start picking up grain, Boaz told his men, "Don't stop her, even if she picks up grain from where it is stacked. Be sure to pull out some stalks of grain from the bundles and leave them on the ground for her. And don't speak harshly to her!" Ruth worked in the field until evening. Then after she had pounded the grain off the stalks, she had a large basket full of grain. She took the grain to town and showed Naomi how much she had picked up. Ruth also gave her the food left over from her lunch. Naomi said, "Where did you work today? Whose field was it? God bless the man who treated you so well!" Then Ruth told her that she had

worked in the field of a man named Boaz. "The LORD bless Boaz!" Naomi replied. "He has shown that he is still loyal to the living and to the dead. Boaz is a close relative, one of those who is supposed to look after us." Ruth told her, "Boaz even said I could stay in the field with his workers until they had finished gathering all his grain." Naomi replied, "My daughter, it's good that you can pick up grain alongside the women who work in his field. Who knows what might happen to you in someone else's field!" And so, Ruth stayed close to the women, while picking up grain in his field. Ruth worked in the fields until the barley and wheat were harvested. And all this time she lived with Naomi.

68. RUTH GLEANS THE FIELD (RUTH 2)



Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me see if I can find someone who will let me pick up the grain left in the fields by the harvest workers." Naomi answered, "Go ahead, my daughter."

Ruth 2:2

68. RUTH GLEANS THE FIELD

(RUTH 2)

MEMORY VERSE:

"I pray that the LORD God of Israel will reward you for what you have done. And now that you have come to Him for protection, I pray that He will bless you." **RUTH 2:12**

TRUE OR FALSE

1. Ruth wanted to go pick the grain left by the harvest workers in the fields.
TRUE or FALSE
2. Ruth came to a field owned by her real father.
TRUE or FALSE
3. Boaz asked his workers who that young woman was, and they told him she was named Ruth from Moab and lived with Naomi.
TRUE or FALSE
4. Boaz told Ruth not to go work in any other fields. TRUE or FALSE
5. Boaz invited Ruth to come eat lunch with him and his workers but Ruth was afraid and didn't have lunch with them. TRUE or FALSE
6. Boaz told his workers to leave extra grain for Ruth in the fields every day.
TRUE or FALSE

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. When Ruth was done gathering grain from the fields, did she have a lot of grain?
2. When Ruth came back home, did she bring Naomi the leftovers from lunch?
3. Did Naomi ask Ruth where she was working that day? Where did Ruth tell her she was?
4. When Ruth told Naomi that she was working in the fields of a man named Boaz, who did Naomi say that Boaz was? Was he a relative of theirs?
5. Did Ruth stay working with the workers in Boaz's fields? Was it good that she found a close relative that was taking care of her so much?

Lesson 68 Activity/Craft

Act it out!

Have the children act out the parts – act it out several times so each child wanting to participate has the opportunity to do so.

Ruth: Let me see if I can find someone who will let me pick up the leftover grain from their fields.

Naomi: Okay go ahead, my daughter!

(Ruth goes over near Boaz and the workers).

Boaz to the workers: The Lord bless you!

The workers say to Boaz: And the Lord bless you, too!

Boaz says to his worker: Who is that woman over there?

Worker: She is Naomi's daughter in law – she's been working all day long!

Boaz goes over to Ruth and says: You should only pick up grain in my fields, and I have told my workers not to bother you.

Ruth: Why are you so good to me? I'm a foreigner.

Boaz: I heard about how you help your mother in law Naomi all the time. You have come to the LORD looking for help, so I hope He blesses you. You should come over here and eat dinner with us.

Ruth: Oh, thank you! You are good to me, and I'm not even one of your servants! (they all sit and 'eat' dinner together, then Ruth gets up and leaves)

Boaz talks to his workers again: Take some of the grain stalks out so she can pick it up. Don't bother her, let her gather as much as she wants.

Ruth picks up her basket full of grain and goes back and shows it to Naomi.

Naomi: Where did you get all this grain?

Ruth: From a man named Boaz – he said I could gather in his fields all the time.

Naomi: I hope the LORD blesses Boaz because he is so nice! He is one of our close relatives that is supposed to help us! Who knows what would happen if you worked in someone else's field!

Lesson 68 Optional Activity

Gleaners

Supplies: *A couple of boxes of drinking straws, or a few sheets of construction paper*
A clear plastic baggie with one slice of bread in it.

What is gleaning? Make the idea more concrete with this activity. Take a package of plastic drinking straws (or you can cut some sheets of construction paper into thin (1/8" wide) strips) and scatter them all over the floor. Tell your class that after you say, "Go," the one who picks up the most straws or slivers of paper wins a prize. Have everyone be seated for the prize bestowing ceremony. Give the winner one slice of bread in a clear sandwich bag. Explain: It would take a long time to gather enough stalks of grain to make even one loaf of bread. Then you would have to thresh it by beating it until it came out of the husk. Do not forget you need to bake it! And if that's not enough to make you hungry, think about doing it all over again the next day. In God's law, there was a provision that required those who had land and crops to leave some grain for those who were poor. How can we help those who are in need today?

PRAYER Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving for all of God's provisions. He exceedingly, abundantly provides for all of our needs in Christ Jesus. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.