

14.08b Ruth Serves (Ruth 2)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows
[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that usually should not be read. It also indicates answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- (optional) “Ruth” Flash-a-Cards published by Abeka
- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.
- A five-gallon pail

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *to reap*: to harvest grain, first picking the grain stalks
- *to glean*: to pick up grain stalks that have been left behind by the reapers; God had commanded the Israelites not to reap the fields all the way to the corners or to strip the fields of grain but to leave some for the poor to glean.
- *sheaves*: bundles of grain stalks

Scripture (ESV)

Ruth 2:1 Now Naomi had a relative of her husband’s, a worthy man of the clan of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz. 2 And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, “Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after him in whose sight I shall find favor.” And she said to her, “Go, my daughter.” 3 So she set out and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers, and she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the clan of Elimelech. 4 And behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem. And he said to the reapers, “The Lord be with you!” And they answered, “The Lord bless you.” 5 Then Boaz said to his young man who was in charge of the reapers, “Whose young woman is this?” 6 And the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered, “She is the young Moabite woman, who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab. 7 She said, ‘Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves after the reapers.’ So she came, and she has continued from early morning until now, except for a short rest.”

8 Then Boaz said to Ruth, “Now, listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but keep close to my young women. 9 Let your eyes be on the field that they are reaping, and go after them. Have I not charged the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink what the young men have drawn.” 10 Then she fell on her face, bowing to the ground, and said to him, “Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?” 11 But Boaz answered her, “All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told to me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before. 12 The Lord repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!” 13 Then she said, “I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, for you have comforted me and spoken kindly to your servant, though I am not one of your servants.”

14 And at mealtime Boaz said to her, “Come here and eat some bread and dip your morsel in the wine.” So she sat beside the reapers, and he passed to her roasted grain. And she ate until she was satisfied, and she had some left over. 15 When she rose to glean, Boaz instructed his young men, saying, “Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her. 16 And also pull out some from the bundles for her and leave it for her to glean, and do not rebuke her.”

17 So she gleaned in the field until evening. Then she beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley. 18 And she took it up and went into the city. Her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. She

also brought out and gave her what food she had left over after being satisfied. 19 And her mother-in-law said to her, "Where did you glean today? And where have you worked? Blessed be the man who took notice of you." So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked and said, "The man's name with whom I worked today is Boaz." 20 And Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "May he be blessed by the Lord, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead!" Naomi also said to her, "The man is a close relative of ours, one of our redeemers." 21 And Ruth the Moabite said, "Besides, he said to me, 'You shall keep close by my young men until they have finished all my harvest.'" 22 And Naomi said to Ruth, her daughter-in-law, "It is good, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, lest in another field you be assaulted." 23 So she kept close to the young women of Boaz, gleaning until the end of the barley and wheat harvests. And she lived with her mother-in-law.

Introduction/Review:

When Naomi heard that Bethlehem was prospering, she determined to leave Moab and go back home. Ruth, her daughter-in-law accompanied her, stating that Naomi's home, people, and God would be hers also.

When Naomi and Ruth arrived in Bethlehem, Naomi bewailed her troubled life, for she had lost both her husband and her two sons to death. She admitted to being a bitter woman.

Story:

Ruth gleanes

After Naomi and Ruth had found a place to live in Bethlehem, Ruth asked her mother-in-law permission to do something. Listen so that you can tell me what she asked: "May I go to the field and glean grain?" She asked to do what? [Glean grain.] Notice that this grown woman respected her legal mother enough to ask permission.

Naomi replied, "Go, my daughter."

So Ruth went out to glean. She "happened" to glean in the field of a near relative of Elimelech named Boaz. Even to be a gleaner, Ruth asked permission from the servant set over the reapers. She said, "Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves after the reapers." The servant said she could reap there.

Boaz notices

Boaz, the owner of the field, came out from Bethlehem and greeted his reapers by saying, "The Lord be with you!"

The reapers answered, "The Lord bless you."

Noticing Ruth, Boaz asked, "Whose damsel is this?"

"She's the Moabite that came back with Naomi. She's been gleaning all morning and just came to rest," answered the servant over the reapers.

Boaz approached Ruth, his cousin's widow, and said, "Don't go to anyone else's field. No one shall hurt you here. If you're thirsty, drink from water the young men have drawn."

Ruth fell to her knees, bowing and saying, "Why would you bless me so since I am a foreigner?"

Boaz answered, "I've heard about how you have helped your mother-in-law and have left your family and the land where you were born and have come to a people that you did not know before. May the Lord, under whose wings you have come to take refuge, bless you and reward you."

Boaz knew about Ruth's coming to help her mother-in-law. He also knew about Ruth's relationship to God, for he basically said, "You trust the Lord, in whom you have taken refuge."

Ruth answered Boaz, "Thank you for comforting me and showing me, your servant, favor even though I am not like your other servants."

At mealtime Boaz invited Ruth to eat. He said, “Come here with the reapers to eat bread dipped in vinegar.” Then he gave her parched corn. Ruth ate until she was satisfied and went back to work.

As she left the lunch area, Boaz commanded his servants to let Ruth gather good amounts of grain. “Let her have some sheaves, and leave some handfuls on purpose for her,” he said.

Naomi exclaims

By the time evening came, Ruth had gathered and beaten out six-tenths of a bushel (about five gallons) of barley—a much larger amount than a person usually gleaned. She carried it and some leftover lunch home to Naomi.

Seeing all that grain, Naomi ✓was astounded. “Where did you glean today?!” she asked.

“In the field of Boaz,” answered Ruth.

Naomi responded, “God bless him who is kind. He is a near relative.”

“He said to stay close to the reapers until the harvest is done,” said Ruth.

“That’s what you should do,” answered Naomi. “It might be dangerous in other fields.”

So Ruth gleaned in the field of Boaz until the end of barley harvest, and she gleaned into the wheat harvest.

Lessons from this lesson:

- We see Jesus:

Ruth took a humble job, gleaning, in order to help her mother-in-law. Jesus humbled Himself and became a servant in order to save us from our sins (Philippians 2:5–8).

As the song below wonders, was it in the fields where Ruth gleaned that the shepherds watched their sheep the night Jesus was born?

- We should work hard.
- Our reputation, good or bad, will be known by others.

Activities:

- Play dough: baskets; grain stalks; a bird with spread wings
- Snack: Cooked barley and/or parched barley; also, bread dipped in vinegar or perhaps Italian salad dressing for students to taste.
- Show students what barley looks like.
- Thresh grain by beating out some wheat into a bowl or pan.
- Sing “The Fields of Bethlehem” (tune: “Sing a Song of Sixpence”; lyrics from an old book)

Sing a song of Bethlehem—the town where Christ was born;
‘Round about the city stood the fields of waving corn.
Ruth went gleaning in those fields for grain to make her bread.
When harvest time came ‘round once more, the sun shown overhead.

But, oh, we know another tale of nighttime and a star,
Of shepherds watching in those fields, and wise men from afar.
It was to fields near Bethlehem that angels came, we know;
Was it the field where Ruth once stood so very long ago?

- Play a gleaners’ game. Divide the class into groups of two. One in each pair will be a guide and the other, a gleaner. The gleaner will be blindfolded and at the start signal will try to glean and place in a

container pennies that are scattered on the floor. The guide will direct the gleaner to the pennies. After a specified amount of time, perhaps a minute, the gleaners stop gleaning and remove their blindfolds. The pair that has the most pennies wins the game. Reverse roles and play again (from the Bible Story Games, Section 1: p. 42, of a story about Ruth; Group Publishing).

- Review questions: (Game: Use the pennies from the gleaners' game. For each correct answer, a student may place a penny in a container or a pocket chart.)
 1. What job did Ruth find? [Gleaning.]
 2. In whose field did Ruth glean? [In Boaz's.]
 3. What was Elimelech's relationship to Boaz? [They were near relatives, like cousins.]
 4. Was Ruth a hard worker or not? Explain your answer. [She worked hard; she had worked all morning with just a short rest; she worked after lunch until evening.]
 5. What was Ruth's reputation in Bethlehem? [She had shown kindness to her mother-in-law, even to the point of leaving her family and being a foreigner in her new home.]
 6. How did Boaz show kindness to Ruth? [By inviting her to stay and be protected in his field; by telling her to drink freely of the water provided; by inviting her to eat with the reapers and giving her food; by instructing the reapers to leave her some grain on purpose.]
 7. How did Ruth respond to Boaz's kindness? [She bowed herself to the ground and asked why he had favored her so well; she told him he had favored her even though she was a foreigner.]
 8. When Naomi saw the grain and leftover lunch, what did she say? ["Where did you glean today? Blessed be the man who took notice of you."]
 9. Where did Ruth finish gleaning the barley harvest? [In Boaz's field.]

Memory Verse[s]: (a combination of KJV and ESV)

- Ruth 2:12—The Lord repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to trust.

Handwork:

- Print a picture found below of Ruth in the field for each student. Have students color the picture. Glue barley or wheat to the page where the grain is pictured.

to reap

to glean

sheaves



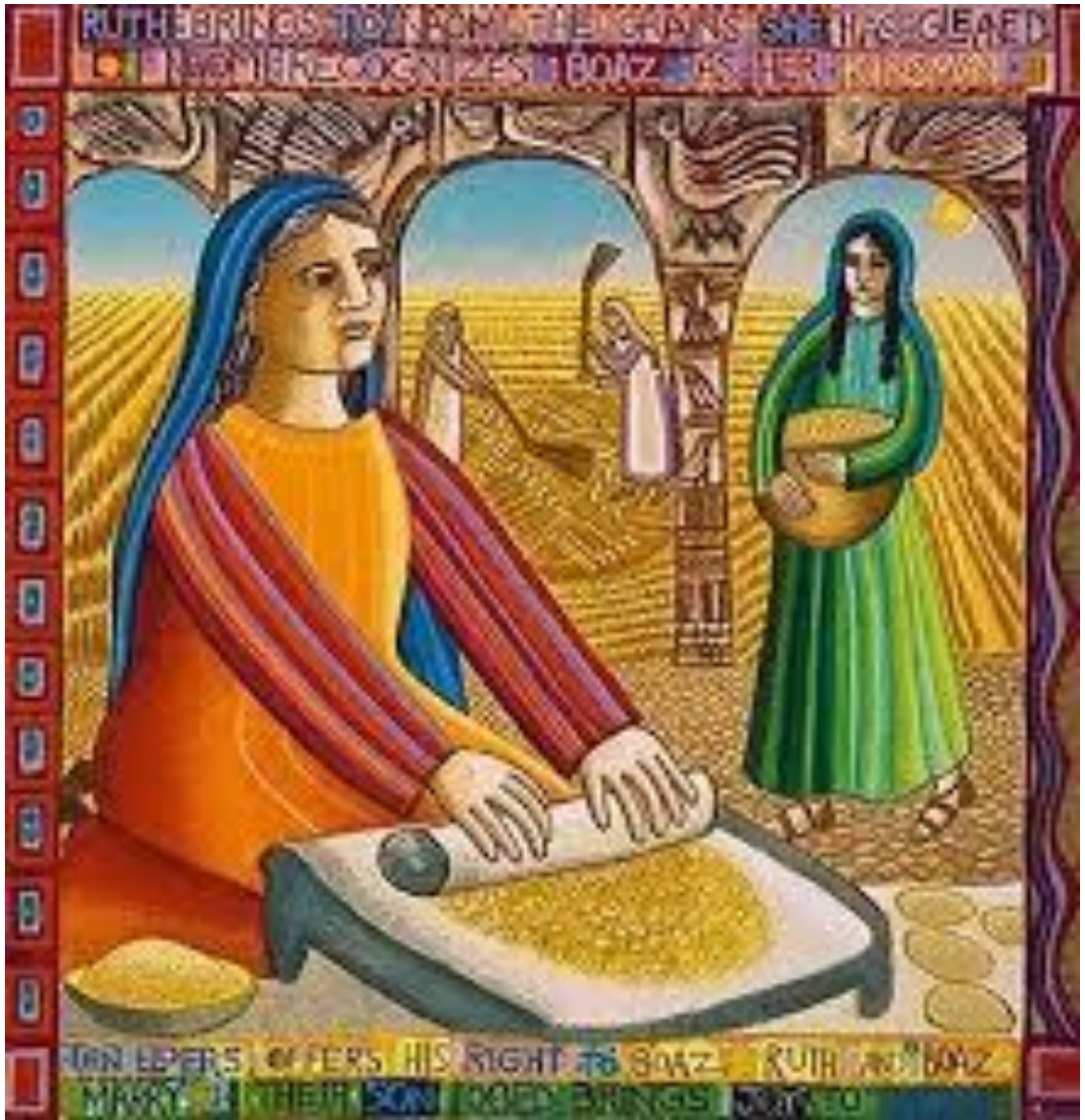
<https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-stories/ruth-and-naomi.html>



<https://jasonbiette.wordpress.com/2018/03/26/old-testament-exegetical-commentary-of-ruth/>



<https://www.toughquestionsanswered.org/2015/08/07/commentary-on-the-book-of-ruth/>



<http://www.secondcrcgrandhaven.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/November23Thanksgiving-1.pdf>



Ruth 2:17 So Ruth gleaned in the field until evening. Then she beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley. 18 And she took it up and went into the city. Her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. She also brought out and gave her what food she had left over after being satisfied. 19 And her mother-in-law said to her, "Where did you glean today? And where have you worked? Blessed be the man who took notice of you." So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked and said, "The man's name with whom I worked today is Boaz." 20 And Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "May he be blessed by the Lord, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead!" O