

“There is a Redeemer”
5. The Book of Ruth – Ruth 2: 1-14

Purpose: The students will see that God takes care of the poor

Recap: (Write “There is a Redeemer”- the title of this series, on the board) We are reading the book of Ruth in the Old Testament for Bible time. These Bible times are called “There is a Redeemer” because Ruth had a redeemer, and we have a redeemer. Who is our redeemer? (Jesus Christ) What does “redeem” mean? (to buy back)

Last week in Bible time what happened in our story? (Ruth and Naomi arrived back in Israel, in Bethlehem. Ruth made a strong promise to Naomi. The women of the town were surprised to see Naomi.)

Introduction:

Today we will start chapter 2. Before we read, let’s learn about another of God’s laws. This law is about “gleaning.” What is “gleaning”? (picking up what other people leave behind) When farmers cut barley and wheat, sometimes good pieces of barley or wheat would fall on the ground. God’s law said that the farmers could not pick up any good pieces of barley or wheat that fell on the ground. The good barley and wheat that fell on the ground was for poor people. Poor people could come to the field when the farmer was finished, and pick up all the barley or wheat that fell on the ground that day. This is a way that God took care of poor people. This was one way that poor people could get food.

Questions:

What kind of work did Ruth find ? (gleaning barley)

Why was Boaz kind to Ruth? (vs. 11. Boaz had heard about the good things that Ruth had done for Naomi.

Read Ruth 2: 1-13

Answer the questions.

Revisit the story: Let’s look at the story again, more carefully.

1. Who was Boaz? (a relative of Elimelech. an important man.)
2. Whose field did Ruth work in? (Boaz’s field. There were many fields in Israel. God led Ruth to Boaz’s field and Boaz was a relative of Naomi’s husband)
3. How did Boaz say “hello” to his workers? (he said, “The Lord be with you.” This was the way a priest in Israel would bless the people. Boaz talked like a priest. This shows that he had a very good character. Boaz loved and respected God)
4. How did the workers say “hello” to Boaz? (they said, “We pray that the Lord will do good things to you.” Both Boaz and the workers were thinking about God while they were working. God is always with us.)

5. Had Boaz met Ruth before? (no. He asks his servant who she is)
6. Was Ruth a hard worker? (yes. She was working from dawn with only a short break)
7. Boaz told Ruth to do three things. What three things did Boaz tell Ruth to do? (1. stay with his women servants 2. glean with the women servants 3. use the water jars if she wants a drink. Boaz did more for Ruth than God's law said. God's law said that Boaz should let Ruth glean in his field because she was a foreigner. But God's law did not say that Boaz should give her water. Boaz was very kind and helpful. He was generous.)
8. What did Ruth do when Boaz was talking to her? (she fell on the ground and hid her face. This shows that she respected Boaz.)
9. Let's read verse 12. Boaz showed Ruth that he accepted her. Boaz's God will accept her, too. Ruth decided to become one of God's people. Now, God will put His love all around Ruth. God will keep Ruth safe. God will be like a mother bird, who puts her baby birds under her wings to keep them safe.

Do you have any questions or comments?

Easy English Notes from Wycliffe

Chapter 2

Verse 1 A *relation is someone in your family, perhaps an aunt or a cousin. Perhaps Boaz was Elimelech's brother, Ruth 4:3. But brother may be a word for someone who lived near you.

Verse 2 The field was all the land round a town. Each family had part of the field. They planted things in it to grow food. They used *grain, from *wheat or *barley, to make bread. The rules about *gleaning were:

- when you pick food from your fields, let some remain for the poor and the stranger (Leviticus 23:22)
- it will be for the stranger and the *widow (Deuteronomy 24:19)

When the poor, or stranger, or *widow got the *grain, they called it '*gleaning'. Ruth was a stranger and a *widow.

Verse 3 'she happened' makes it look as if nobody decided it. This is not true. God decided it.

Verse 4 'The *LORD is with you' was how Boaz said 'hello' to his men. 'Do good things to' we often translate as 'bless'.

Verse 7 The *Hebrew in this verse is not easy to understand. It may mean that Ruth did not *glean until Boaz came. The servant did not say 'yes' or 'no' until then.

Verse 8 The answer was 'yes'. Boaz told her not to go anywhere else.

Verse 10 Ruth wanted to know why Boaz was so kind to her. Was it because Boaz loved her? Or was it because she was Mahlon's *widow?

Verse 11 Boaz said that it was because Ruth had been kind to Naomi. Ruth was now part of a family that had Naomi and Boaz in it.

Verse 13 The word that we translated 'kind' in verses 2, 10 and 13, we can also translate 'gracious'. It does not mean the same as 'kind love' in Ruth 1:8 and 2:20. 'Gracious' in the Bible means that you are 'kind when you do not have to be kind'.