

Read Ruth 2:1-7

- 1 Now Naomi had a relative on her husband's side, a man of standing from the clan of Elimelek, whose name was Boaz.
- 2 And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favor." Naomi said to her, "Go ahead, my daughter."
- 3 So she went out, entered a field and began to glean behind the harvesters. As it turned out, she was working in a field belonging to Boaz, who was from the clan of Elimelek.
- 4 Just then Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and greeted the harvesters, "The LORD be with you!" "The LORD bless you!" they answered.
- 5 Boaz asked the overseer of his harvesters, "Who does that young woman belong to?"
- 6 The overseer replied, "She is the Moabite who came back from Moab with Naomi.
- 7 She said, 'Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves behind the harvesters.' She came into the field and has remained here from morning till now, except for a short rest in the shelter."

Trust that gleaning from God's grace is always sufficient

Leviticus 19:9-10

'Now when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very corners of your field, nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest. 'Nor shall you glean your vineyard, nor shall you gather the fallen fruit of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the needy and for the stranger. I am the LORD your God.

Learn to see leftovers as lovingkindness!

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CHESED = the steadfast love of God, or covenant love

1. Move forward in faith anticipation (RUTH)

Proverbs 3:3-6

- 3 Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.
- 4 Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.
- 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
- 6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.



Romans 5:2b-5

And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.

Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance;

perseverance, character; and character, hope.

And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Read Ruth 2:8-16

- 8 So Boaz said to Ruth, "My daughter, listen to me. Don't go and glean in another field and don't go away from here. Stay here with the women who work for me.
- 9 Watch the field where the men are harvesting, and follow along after the women. I have told the men not to lay a hand on you. And whenever you are thirsty, go and get a drink from the water jars the men have filled."
- 10 At this, she bowed down with her face to the ground. She asked him, "Why have I found such favor in your eyes that you notice me—a foreigner?"
- 11 Boaz replied, "I've been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband—how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with a people you did not know before.
- 12 May the LORD repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge."
- 13 "May I continue to find favor in your eyes, my lord," she said. "You have put me at ease by speaking kindly to your servant—though I do not have the standing of one of your servants."
- 14 At mealtime Boaz said to her, "Come over here. Have some bread and dip it in the wine vinegar." When she sat down with the harvesters, he offered her some roasted grain. She ate all she wanted and had some left over.
- 15 As she got up to glean, Boaz gave orders to his men, "Let her gather among the sheaves and don't reprimand her.
- 16 Even pull out some stalks for her from the bundles and leave them for her to pick up, and don't rebuke her."

2. Depend on God as Jehovah-Jireh (BOAZ)

So she went out, entered a field and began to glean behind the harvesters. As it turned out, she was working in a field belonging to Boaz, who was from the clan of Elimelek.

Matthew 1:5-6

"Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David."



11 Boaz replied, "I've been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband—how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with a people you did not know before.

12 May the LORD repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge."

"Grace isn't opposed to effort, it's opposed to earning. Earning is an attitude. Effort is an action." Dallas Willard

Read Ruth 2:17-23

- 17 So Ruth gleaned in the field until evening. Then she threshed the barley she had gathered, and it amounted to about an ephah.
- 18 She carried it back to town, and her mother-in-law saw how much she had gathered. Ruth also brought out and gave her what she had left over after she had eaten enough.
- 19 Her mother-in-law asked her, "Where did you glean today? Where did you work? Blessed be the man who took notice of you!" Then Ruth told her mother-in-law about the one at whose place she had been working. "The name of the man I worked with today is Boaz," she said. 20 "The LORD bless him!" Naomi said to her daughter-in-law. "He has not stopped showing his
- kindness to the living and the dead." She added, "That man is our close relative; he is one of our guardian-redeemers."
- 21 Then Ruth the Moabite said, "He even said to me, 'Stay with my workers until they finish harvesting all my grain.' "
- 22 Naomi said to Ruth her daughter-in-law, "It will be good for you, my daughter, to go with the women who work for him, because in someone else's field you might be harmed."
- 23So Ruth stayed close to the women of Boaz to glean until the barley and wheat harvests were finished. And she lived with her mother-in-law.

Philippians 4:19

And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

3. Stop defining future possibilities by your past problems (NAOMI)

"The way we deal with uncertainty says a lot about whether Jesus is ahead of us leading, or behind us just carrying our stuff." Bob Goff

2 Corinthians 12:9

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.



Talk About It

Do you (honestly!) tend to be an optimist or a pessimist about new things? Can you think of examples of situations that you went into feeling negative that turned out to be a blessing in disguise?

Read Ruth 2:1-7. Have you given up in some area where you might need to take a step forward in faith, even though you don't know how it will play out? What about Ruth do you want to imitate when it comes to pursuing dreams for your life?

Tell an "as it turned out" story from your life – when something that seemed like a coincidence turned out to be God making a way for you.

Read Ruth 2:4-16. What evidence do you see that Boaz was a righteous and Christ-like man? How can you translate these things into reflecting Christ in your workplace or sphere of influence?

How has God provided through people in your life in areas like finances, protection, encouragement and opportunity? God uses "Remember" all the time in the bible; share some stories with the group to "remember" how God has provided for you.

How do we flip the script to see leftovers as lovingkindness? How do we transform our attitude from "empty" to "full"? Read Psalm 116; what can you do or remember to re-gain hope when dreams seem shattered?