

Scripture Text

Ruth 2

Context

After returning from Moab to Bethlehem, Ruth gleans in a field belonging to Boaz, who shows kindness to her and Naomi. Boaz is a close relative of Elimelech, Naomi's dead husband, and he can be her redeemer.

Observation and Meaning

1. How does Ruth show kindness to Naomi?
2. How does Boaz show kindness to Ruth and Naomi?
3. What does this chapter reveal about the character of Boaz and Ruth? What do they teach us about God?
4. Where do we observe God working in this chapter?

Big Idea

God shows us lovingkindness through the kindness of his people, and through his providential care for his people.

Connecting to the Bible's Storyline

Through the workings of God's providence and the kindness of Ruth and Boaz towards Naomi, God works out his plan to provide a redeemer for Israel, David, and, ultimately, a Saviour of the world, Jesus Christ.

Sermon Outline

- I. The lovingkindness of God's people
- II. The lovingkindness of God's provision

Application

1. How can we reflect God's character by displaying his lovingkindness in our lives?
2. In which areas of our lives do we need to trust God and rest in his providential care of us?
3. How does knowing the big picture story of God's redemption plan encourage us in our daily lives?
4. Are there people in our lives whom God is using to help us grow in Christ? How can we do the same for others?

**Guide for Study Leaders**

Use the C.O.M.A. (Context, Observation, Meaning, Application) method to work through the biblical text.

Context

Pay attention to the surrounding verses, paragraphs, chapters, events, etc. to see how this passage fits within the context of this particular book of the Bible.

Note how this passage fits within the larger storyline of the whole Bible, i.e. how God is saving a people through Jesus Christ to live under his rule in his place.

Observation & Meaning

Make careful observations of the biblical text. Notice details such as linking words (eg. "for", "if", "therefore"), repetition, dialogue, narrative, OT quotations, etc.

To understand the meaning of the biblical text, we need to discern the author's purpose or intent: Why is the biblical author writing this?

Helpful questions to ask include:

- Who is writing and to whom?
- What is the situation of the author and of the readers?
- Are we made aware of any problems that need to be addressed?
- Are there any repeated themes, or a single idea that holds everything together?

Application

Apply God's word to the heart. Move beyond merely addressing circumstances and behaviour by asking good "heart" questions. For example: Why do we do what we do? What do we really desire?

Always connect the gospel to application. For example, what difference does knowing Christ make to our obedience to God?

Ask what the passage teaches us about God, ourselves, salvation in Christ, the church, the world, etc.