

**Ruth 1:22 – 2:13**

English Standard Version (ESV)

1 <sup>22</sup> So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabite her daughter-in-  
 2 law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. And  
 3 they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.

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

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

**Observation (What does it say?):**

Consider the observation questions on the back of this page. What do you notice in this passage?

- Circle descriptions or actions that reveal something of Ruth's character.
- Box descriptions or actions that reveal something of Boaz's character.
- What other observations do you see?

**Interpretation (What does it mean?):**

After observing the passage:

- List the character qualities that you see in Ruth. Which of these do you find most important? Why?
- List the character qualities that you see in Boaz. Which of these do you find most important? Why?
- What effect do you think these qualities might have on their relationships with others (Naomi, the reapers, each other, etc.)?
- What other questions come to mind as you read?
- How would you title this passage?

**Application (What does it mean for me?):**

- What parts of your character (positive or negative) have the most effect on your relationships?
- What part do your relationships with others have in forming your character?

**Additional questions for thought and discussion:**

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## Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

### **Observation** (What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer's thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose ("in order that...")?
- Are there conclusions ("Therefore...")?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good "headline" for the passage?

### **Interpretation** (What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer's thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

### **Application** (What does it mean for me?)

What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

**Read nothing into the Scriptures,  
but draw everything from them,  
and suffer nothing to remain  
hidden that is really in them.  
J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)**