

Ruth 2:14 – 23

English Standard Version (ESV)

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

9 ¹⁷ So she gleaned in the field until evening. Then she beat out
10 what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley.

11 ¹⁸ And she took it up and went into the city. Her mother-in-
12 law saw what she had gleaned. She also brought out and gave
13 her what food she had left over after being satisfied. ¹⁹ And
14 her mother-in-law said to her, “Where did you glean today?
15 And where have you worked? Blessed be the man who took
16 notice of you.” So she told her mother-in-law with whom she
17 had worked and said, “The man's name with whom I worked
18 today is Boaz.” ²⁰ And Naomi said to her daughter-in-law,
19 “May he be blessed by the Lord, whose kindness has not
20 forsaken the living or the dead!” Naomi also said to her, “The
21 man is a close relative of ours, one of our redeemers.” ²¹ And
22 Ruth the Moabite said, “Besides, he said to me, ‘You shall
23 keep close by my young men until they have finished all my
24 harvest.’” ²² And Naomi said to Ruth, her daughter-in-law, “It
25 is good, my daughter, that you go out with his young women,
26 lest in another field you be assaulted.” ²³ So she kept close to
27 the young women of Boaz, gleaning until the end of the barley
28 and wheat harvests. And she lived with her mother-in-law.

This week a little different approach.
The questions on the back page may give you a helpful starting point.

- *Read through the passage several times. Each time, mark words or phrases or facts that get your attention.*
- *Write questions that come to mind as you read.*
- *Write implications of different statements in the text.*

- *Finally, suppose you are going to lead a discussion group on this passage. Write one question you would use to help the people in the group explore this part of Ruth's story.*

Additional questions for thought and discussion:

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)