At the edge of the field

A close reading of Ruth 2:8–18 • 20 minutes

Read the passage aloud. Notice how an invitation to stay in a field becomes a meal, grain to gather and something Ruth can carry home.

Follow the gifts

For each scene, write an action and the verse where you found it.

The invitation

vv. 8–9

The meal

v. 14

The bundles

vv. 15–16

Read the ending

In verses 17–18, what two things does Ruth bring to Naomi? Which earlier detail helps explain one of them?

Discuss together

Which action changed Ruth’s work that day? Support your reading with one verse.

Lead the conversation

Bring a Bible and a copy of the participant sheet for each reader. Keep this page for reference until everyone has had a chance to look at the text.

3 MIN **Read twice**

Read Ruth 2:8–18 once for the story. On the second reading, invite listeners to notice who speaks to whom.

6 MIN **Mark the actions**

Give everyone quiet writing time. Ask a reader to share a verse before the group moves to interpretation.

7 MIN **Compare what people noticed**

One person might notice a drink of water, another a meal, another the instructions to the workers. What detail led each reader there?

4 MIN **Follow the food home**

Read verses 17–18 again. What reaches Naomi because of the events in the field? Invite a final observation from someone who has not spoken.

Verse guide for the leader

8–9 Boaz tells Ruth to stay near his women workers and invites her to drink the water the workers draw.

14 Ruth joins the reapers, eats her fill and has food left over.

15–16 Boaz tells his workers to leave some grain from the bundles for Ruth to gather.

17–18 Ruth brings home the barley she has gathered and shares food saved from the meal.

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