

## “Who is in control of your life?”

Ruth 2:1-13

### Ruth Meets Boaz

<sup>1</sup> Now Naomi had a relative on her husband's side, from the clan of Elimelech, a man of standing, whose name was Boaz.

<sup>2</sup> And Ruth the Moabitess 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."<sup>3</sup> So she went out and began to glean in the fields behind the harvesters. As it turned out, she found herself working in a field belonging to Boaz, who was from the clan of Elimelech.

<sup>4</sup> Just then Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and greeted the harvesters, "The LORD be with you!"

"The LORD bless you!" they called back.

<sup>5</sup> Boaz asked the foreman of his harvesters, "Whose young woman is that?"

<sup>6</sup> The foreman replied, "She is the Moabitess who came back from Moab with Naomi." <sup>7</sup> She said, 'Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves behind the harvesters.' She went into the field and has worked steadily from morning till now, except for a short rest in the shelter."

<sup>8</sup> 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 my servant girls. <sup>9</sup> Watch the field where the men are harvesting, and follow along after the girls. I have told the men not to touch you. And whenever you are thirsty, go and get a drink from the water jars the men have filled."

<sup>10</sup> At this, she bowed down with her face to the ground. She exclaimed, "Why have I found such favor in your eyes that you notice me—a foreigner?"

<sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> 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."

<sup>13</sup> "May I continue to find favor in your eyes, my lord," she said. "You have given me comfort and have spoken kindly to your servant—though I do not have the standing of one of your servant girls."

Ruth 2: 1-13 (NIV)

### Ruth 2: 1-13

#### Questions for Personal Reflection or Group Study:

1. Take a moment and ask yourself the central question: Who is in control of my life (at this point in time)? The following three options may help your reflection:
  - a) My life is out of control – there is no-one at the wheel.
  - b) God is in complete control of my life. I know it and feel it.
  - c) God is in control of my life. I believe it, but it doesn't feel like it at this time.
2. Consider Ruth's situation now that she has followed Naomi back to Bethlehem. What were her social and economic prospects? (Ruth 1:11-13 ; Ruth 2:2) What did she think about God?
3. What did Naomi think about God? (Ruth 1:6; Ruth 1:20-21; Ruth 2:20) Would you consider that to be faith? Do you find the verse in Hebrews 11:6 helpful at all?
4. The narrator seems to suggest that Boaz was a good man. Name three clues that would lead to that conclusion. (Ruth 2:1; Ruth 2:4; Ruth 2:8-9) Do you think it was a sure thing that Boaz would come to their rescue? How does Ruth 4:6 shed any light on that?
5. Why is Ruth 2:3 such an important verse in this story? What does that tell you about God's method of caring for Ruth and Naomi?
6. Why does God care for Ruth and Naomi? Would you say it is because of Ruth 2:11 or because of Ruth 2:12b?
7. Why does God care for us? (Gen 1:26-31; Gen 12:2-3; 1 John 4:7-18) How can we gain access to God's providence and blessing? (Ruth 2:12)