

# HOPE IN THE MYSTERIOUS MERCY OF GOD

Sunday, December 8

## RUTH 2: SUMMARY

The second chapter of Ruth unfolds with Ruth and Naomi back in Bethlehem, confronting the realities of their precarious situation. Two widows needing food and family must rely on God's provision. Ruth takes the initiative, asking to glean in the fields, a practice established by God's law to provide for the poor and foreigners (Leviticus 23:22). She "just so happens" to glean in the field of Boaz, a man of great character and strength, who is also a relative of Naomi.

Boaz's kindness shines as he protects and provides for Ruth. He lets her glean among his harvesters, offers her water, and serves her food at his table. Ruth's gratitude is evident as she bows before him, wondering why she has found such favor. Boaz responds by acknowledging her loyalty to Naomi and praying that she will find refuge under the wings of the Lord.

Through Boaz's actions, we see God's character—His care for the vulnerable, provision, and grace. The chapter ends with Naomi moving from bitterness to hope as she realizes Boaz is their kinsman-redeemer.

## CONNECTING RUTH AND ADVENT

The story of Ruth and Boaz feels right at home in this Advent season—a time of waiting, hoping, and trusting in God's promises. Like Ruth, who stepped out in faith, we are also invited to trust that God is working behind the scenes, even when the path ahead is uncertain. Boaz's kindness and care remind us of Jesus, who came into the world to seek and

save the lost, to offer refuge, and to invite us to His table.

Advent is about finding hope in the ordinary and the unexpected, much like Ruth found hope in the barley fields of Bethlehem. This is a season of turning our eyes to the One who meets us in our need, protects us with His love, and provides for us with His abundance. Ruth's story challenges us to trust that God's hidden hand is at work, weaving His plan of redemption for each of us—even in the most minor details of our lives. This Advent, may we rest under the wings of the Lord, confident in His faithfulness and eager to share His hope with others.

***We exist to help connect Jesus to people, people to community, and community to mission. Let's discuss how Ruth 2 connects to our mission as a church...***

## JESUS TO PEOPLE

Boaz's actions toward Ruth mirror God's character—gracious, protective, and abundant in provision. Similarly, Jesus invites us to His table, offering eternal nourishment and refuge under His wings.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- How does Boaz reflect the kindness and character of God in his treatment of Ruth?
- What does it mean to find refuge "under the wings of the Lord" in your life today?
- Share an experience where you have felt God's provision or protection during a difficult time.

