

## BE A BRINGER

*“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....”*  
John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

## PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

*“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....”* I Samuel 12:23a

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# Ruth

Loss, Love and Legacy  
GROWTH GUIDE

Handout: 05/27/18

Study: 06/03/18

## From Heartache To Hope

A Latin proverb says, “Providence assists not the idle.” Since Ruth was not the kind of woman who could long remain idle, she asked Naomi’s permission to glean in the fields so they would have food to eat. This was a step of faith on Ruth’s part, based on God’s commandment in the law (Lev. 19:9–10; 23:22; Deut. 24:19–22). Whenever they reaped a harvest, God’s people were to consider the poor and leave gleanings for them. After all, God gave the harvest, and He had every right to tell the people how to use it.

The existence of this law was proof of God’s concern for the poor among His people. The nation was instructed to treat the poor with equity (Ex. 23:3, 6; Lev. 19:15; Prov. 22:22–23) and with generosity (Lev. 19:9–10). God was also concerned for the widows, many of whom were poor, and He told the people to care for them (Ex. 22:22–24; see Isa. 10:1–2). Ruth was not only a poor widow, but she was also an alien. Therefore, she had every right to look to God for His help and provision. “He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing” (Deut. 10:18 NIV).

To live by faith means to take God at His word and then act upon it, for “faith without works is dead” (James 2:20 NKJV). Since Ruth believed that God loved her and would provide for her, she set out to find a field in which she could glean. This was completely an act of faith because, being a stranger, she didn’t know who owned the various parcels of ground that made up the fields. There were boundary markers for each parcel, but no fences or family name signs as seen on our farms today. Furthermore, as a woman and an outsider, she was especially vulnerable, and she had to be careful where she went.

It is here that Boaz enters the story (Ruth 2:1, 3), a relative of Elimelech who was “a man of standing” (NIV) in the community. His name means “in him is strength.” By the providence of God, Ruth gleaned in the portion of the field that belonged to Boaz. The record says Ruth “happened” to come to this portion of the field, but it was no accident. Her steps were guided by the Lord. “I being in the way, the LORD led me” (Gen. 24:27 KJV).

God’s providential working in our lives is both a delight and a mystery. God is constantly working with us (Mark 16:20), in us (Phil. 2:12–13), and for us (Romans 8:28) and accomplishing His gracious purposes. We pray, we seek His will, and we make decisions (and sometimes make mistakes); but it is God who orders events and guides His willing children. In a spectacular vision, the prophet Ezekiel saw the providential workings of God depicted by a throne set on a “firmament” that was moved here and there by “wheels within wheels” (Ezek. 1). You can’t explain it, but thank God you can believe it and rely on it!

Source: “Be Committed” by Warren Wiersbe

## KEY VERSE

Ruth 2:8

*Then Boaz said to Ruth, "You will listen, my daughter, will you not? Do not go to glean in another field, nor go from here, but stay close by my young women."  
NKJV*

## WEEKLY READINGS

### Monday: Ruth 2:1-9

#### Introduction

1. What is the kindest act that you've been the recipient of?
2. What words would you use to describe Ruth based upon this passage?

### Tuesday: Ruth 2:1-3; Deuteronomy 24:19- 22

#### Walk By Faith

3. What faith did Ruth demonstrate in going to glean in the fields?
4. What are some areas in your life where you are walking by faith?

### Wednesday: Ruth 2:4-7; Proverbs 3:3-4

#### Work With Diligence

5. How would you describe Ruth based on this passage?
6. How do we build a great reputation like Ruth?

### Thursday: Ruth 2:8-9; Colossians 3:23-24; James 1:17

#### Watch For Reward

7. What are some specific acts of kindness that Boaz performed toward Ruth?
8. Describe a time in your life when you were rewarded for your faithfulness.
9. What words would you use to describe Boaz?

### Friday: Ruth 2:1-9; Psalm 121

#### God Is At Work

10. This passage doesn't ascribe a specific action to God, but where can we see His hand at work?
11. Where can you see God working in your life? In our church?
12. Where do you draw your hope from when times are tough?