

JOURNEY

Part Five: Walking in God's Favor
Ruth 2:1-23

Journeying toward God opens the door of His Favor

Ruth's role in **walking** in God's favor

Hard **Work** and Wise **Initiative** vs. 1-7

Ruth was **assertive**:

'let me go... and glean' (vs. 2);

'please let me glean and gather' (vs. 7)

Ruth's **work ethic**:

'she went and gleaned' (vs. 3);

'remained from morning until now' (vs. 7)

Having a Respectable **Reputation** vs. 8-13

Boaz's kindness: a **free** opportunity

Boaz's reasons: Ruth's **pattern** of life choices

Boaz's **blessing**: reward, wages, refuge

God's role in **granting** His favor

God Provides 'Divine **Direction** and **Appointments**' vs. 1, 3-5

Naomi happens to have a **relative**

Ruth happens to stop at **Boaz's** field

Boaz happens to arrive that **very day**

God Provides '**Strategic Partners**' vs. 14-23

Boaz's **provision** and **protection**

Auburn Grace Community Church – February 11th, 2024

Life Group Discussion Questions – February 11, 2024

Ruth 3:1-2 Now Naomi had a kinsman of her husband, a man of great wealth, of the family of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz. And Ruth, the Moabitess, said to Naomi, "Please let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after one in whose sight I may find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter."

DISCOVER

1. How do we open the door of God's favor? How has God favored you in the past? What does it mean to be under the wings of God to find refuge? What favor from God have you prayed for recently? How is your request aligned with the will of God? Has there been a period in life where you did not feel the favor of God? Share a memory of the lesson you might have learned.
2. Who do you know that has a good reputation? What did they do to earn a good reputation? What do you look for in a person that leads you to believe the person is trustworthy? Why might it take a lot more time in a relationship to see someone as trustworthy versus seeing the person as unreliable?

EXPLORE (Read Ruth 2)

1. Why was it an assertive step for Ruth to implore Naomi to let her work? How was Ruth taking a major risk by going out on her own to become a provider? What could have gone wrong?
2. What did Ruth do to demonstrate her work ethic? Why is it hard to think highly of people that sit back and let others do the work? What are some characteristics that top performers have in common?
3. Throughout Ruth 2, what are the ways in which God favored Ruth? What are the odds of Ruth experiencing these favors without God being in charge? How did Boaz show favor to Ruth, and indirectly to Naomi?
4. Read John 15:1-17. How does it benefit the kingdom of God when we bear fruit? What are you doing that has, or you hope will, bear fruit for the kingdom? What is different about the fruit of which Jesus speaks, compared to everyday good deeds? What fruit do you see in Ruth's treatment of Naomi? What fruit do you see in how Boaz treated Ruth?

EXPERIENCE

1. Who do you think of as a strategic partner in your service to God and others? Why do partners in a mission accomplish more than someone working in isolation? Everybody wants a good partner and that is important. But how do you set yourself up to be a strategic partner for others?
2. Seeking God's favor in life and service is very important. How do we align ourselves with God so as to increase the likelihood of gaining His favor? Why is God's favor more important than the favor of others? What can lead to God removing His favor?
3. Boaz wanted to help Ruth, but she had to demonstrate her work ethic first. She wasn't looking for a handout. How do you reward those who work hard? Opportunity may be orchestrated by God but work is required to accomplish a goal. What good comes from this approach? What might go wrong if we just give handouts?

PRAY

Pray...Father in heaven, all too often we focus on the favor of others more than seeking Your favor. Please open our eyes to the work that is needed to further Your kingdom. We know the workers are few, but the harvest is plentiful. As we do Your work, may Your favor be upon us until we are called home. Amen.