

## The Book of Ruth Walks-Week 3- Ruth

**May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.**

As you walk, try and find a place that would normally be busy with people.

- What is it like to walk in a place that is deserted?
- What can you hear and see?

### **Read Ruth 3:15-18**

<sup>15</sup> Then he said, “Bring the cloak you are wearing and hold it out.” So she held it, and he measured out six measures of barley, and put it on her back; then he went into the city. <sup>16</sup> She came to her mother-in-law, who said, “How did things go with you, my daughter?” Then she told her all that the man had done for her, <sup>17</sup> saying, “He gave me these six measures of barley, for he said, ‘Do not go back to your mother-in-law empty-handed.’” <sup>18</sup> She replied, “Wait, my daughter, until you learn how the matter turns out, for the man will not rest, but will settle the matter today.”

This extract comes at the end of chapter 3. Ruth has been instructed by her mother-in-law to return to Boaz, who is working late, separating the grain and the straw, but not to approach him until he goes to sleep. Ruth is asked to put herself in a vulnerable position as there was no one else around. This could be seen as Naomi trying to ensure that she and Ruth would continue to receive enough grain to live on, or maybe Naomi saw this as an opportunity for the two women to find some more long term security, with a potential marriage.

However, Ruth is still an outsider and there are customs to follow, and although it seems as though Boaz is restrained in his response to Ruth’s appearance, Naomi, seems to think that their future will be decided that day. As again, Boaz ensures that they have plenty of barley. This is a big change for Ruth, as her recent story has been one of lost and uncertainty, the amount of barley, might be suggestive of what is to come.

Throughout all Ruth’s journey to this point, she has put her trust in Naomi’s God, in Naomi and now in Boaz who blessed her in the Lord’s name.

- Where in Ruth’s story might God be seen?
- Which part of Ruth’s story inspires you to trust God?
- What strengthens you, when you feel the weight of expectation and responsibility?

God loves each and everyone of us; whether we feel as though we are new to faith or whether we have had faith for a long time, whether we as though we are just trying to find safety or whether we are comfortable in our lives.

You can trust God with all your needs. Pray. God is faithful and God loves you.

### **Ruth Activity:**

**Make a map of Ruth's journey, put in the events that we hear about in the book attributed to her.**

**Now look for stories in the news and world around, are there people with similar stories out there? Can you see God in their stories? Share them with a friend.**