

Anchor Group Study Guide

This *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the *Presence* behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, *even* Jesus... (Hebrews 6:19-20)

Faith, Grace and Hope

Reading: Ruth Chapter 2

Summary/Context: It is not an accident that chapter two introduces Boaz as a man of wealth, or as other Bible translations translate the passage, "a prominent man of noble character." His position is contrasted in the next verse with the reminder that Ruth is a Moabitess, an outsider in need. As the chapter plays out, it becomes clear Ruth is also a person of noble character. It is a beautiful example of God sovereignly working to not only provide for the Gentile immigrant but for His will to be manifest in a desperate situation.

Subject: Faith, Grace and Hope **Object:** Know your source of hope.

I. 2:1-3, Faith to Go

Note: In verse 1 the author reminds the reader of Elimelech and foreshadows the introduction of Boaz. It is equally significant that the author follows that introduction with the faithful actions of Naomi to provide for her and Ruth. Her faith was seen in trusting in God's provision for those in poverty to glean from the harvest. (Leviticus 19:9–10, 23:22 and Deuteronomy 24:19–22)

- 1. How do you see faith in Ruth's actions?
- 2. The Bible says much about how God's people are to see and treat the poor (Exodus 23:3-6; Leviticus 19:15; Proverbs 22:22–23, Isiah 1:17, 10:1-3). What does remembering the poor, the widow and the trailer look like in our modern context without gleanings?

II. 2:4-16, Grace Displayed

Note: As an impoverished widow and alien in a foreign land, Ruth could neither afford nor earn the basics sustain her and Naomi. She needed someone to supply what she could not. As Ruth went in need, as Boaz offered his blessings to her.

- 1. What did Ruth find when she arrived at the field?
- 2. What do you notice about the character of Boaz?
- 3. Where do you see examples of God's grace?

II. 2:17-23, Hope Abounded

Note: Ruth returned home with nearly enough food for the week. Upon hearing of Boaz, Naomi was no longer bitter, but a woman full of hope who blessed the Lord

and blessed the one whom Ruth worked for. It's key to realize Naomi referring to Boaz as a near relative in verse 20 was more than a colloquialism. The phrase is for a kinsman redeemer. It is a person who had the right and expectation to protect or redeem a relative who was in danger or need. Leviticus 27:9–25 and 25:47–55 explains the law associated the redemption of people and property.

- 1. Where is God's grace in this scene?
- 2. What is Naomi's ultimate source of hope?
- 3. What causes you to rejoice in hope like Naomi?

Deeper questions and resources:

- 1. Can you make the case that Boaz is a type of Jesus Christ?
- 2. Can you make the case that Ruth is a type of the church?
- 3. Pastor David's Guzki's Enduring Word commentary on Ruth chapter 2.