

**“Care Overboard”
(Ruth 2)**

Verse to Remember: “Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, ‘May he be blessed of the Lord who has not withdrawn his kindness to the living and to the dead’” (Ruth 2:20).

What can we Learning about caring for others, and being cared for by others based on the character of Ruth, Boaz, and Naomi?

1. Go care overboard

- Boaz was so kind to Ruth. He went far beyond the law of gleaning (cf. Lev 19:9-10). He made sure she was protected. He told his workers to let her glean among the sheaves and even drop things on purpose for her to be able to collect. He made sure she had access to water and a place to rest. He made sure she was not looked down upon. He even made food for her and served her.
- Caring for others should come from a heart of generosity knowing that all that we have is **from God and for God** (cf. Ruth 2:12).

2. Have a special eye for the one who cares for others.

- Boaz knew of Ruth’s care for Naomi (Ruth 2:11). Ruth then takes care of Naomi from the fruit of Boaz’s kindness towards her.

3. Have a special eye for the humble.

- Both Boaz and Ruth displayed humility (Ruth 2:4, 10).

4. Have a special eye for the hard worker

- Ruth went home with 30-50 pounds of grain, which shows how hard she worked, and how much kindness she was shown (cf. Ruth 2:17).
- The laws of gleaning were built around providing the opportunity for a foreigner or needy person to work for their food.

5. Have a special eye for the foreigner and outcast

- It is made clear throughout the book that Ruth was a Moabite woman, and yet she was shown great kindness (cf. Ruth 2:10). She was at a far lower socio-economic level, and yet she was to be treated as an equal (cf. Ruth 2:13).

6. Have a special eye for the person of faith.

- The faith of Ruth is seen in how she left her country behind, in a way that is seemingly meant to remind us of Abraham (2:11 cf. Gen 12:1-3).
- She sought refuge under the wings of the God of Israel (Ruth 2:12 cf. Deut 32:9-12). She put away foreign gods and followed the true God (cf. Ruth 1:16).

7. Be thankful

- Be thankful that you can give. And be thankful to the one who gives to you.
- When someone blesses you, don’t just thank them, seek God’s blessing for them. Naomi asked for blessing to be upon the one who blessed them (Ruth 2:20).