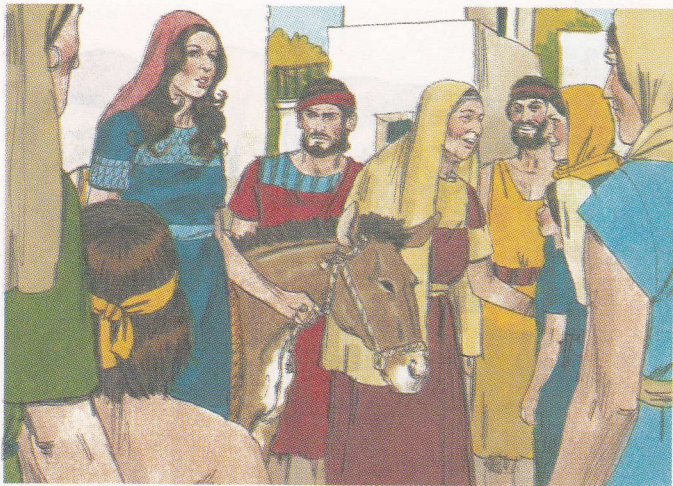


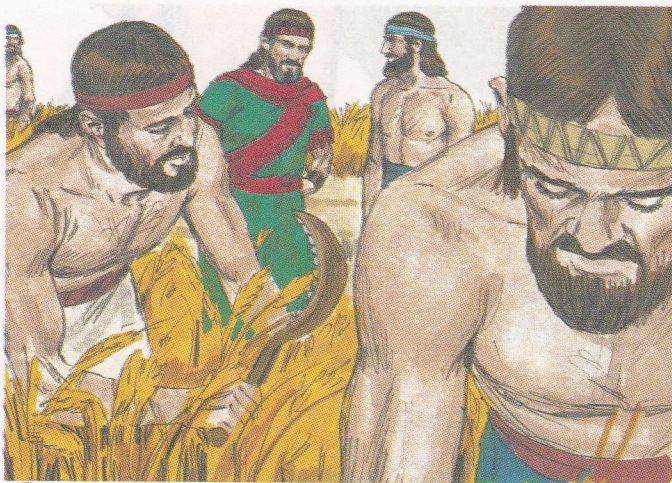
Boaz Is Kind



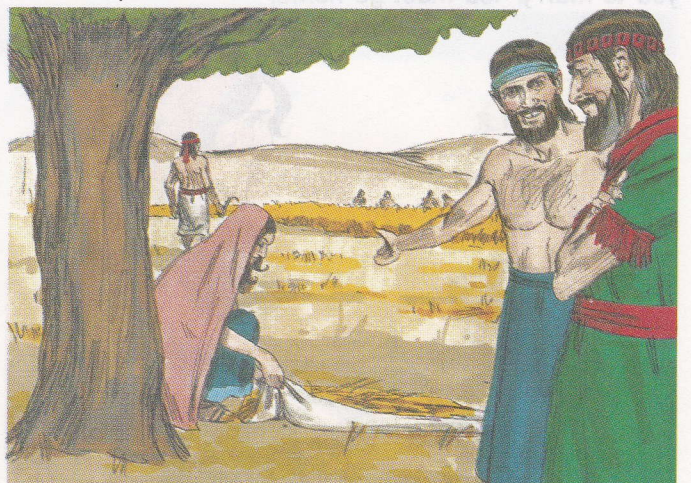
1 After her husband and two sons died, Naomi returned from Moab to Bethlehem of Judah. She and her daughter-in-law Ruth arrived just at the beginning of the barley harvest.



2 Since there was no man to provide for them, Ruth said to Naomi, "Let me go to the fields to gather the grain that the workers leave." So with Naomi's permission, Ruth went out to the fields.



3 After Ruth had been gathering awhile, the owner of the field came there. It so happened that this field was owned by a man named Boaz, who was a relative of Naomi's dead husband.



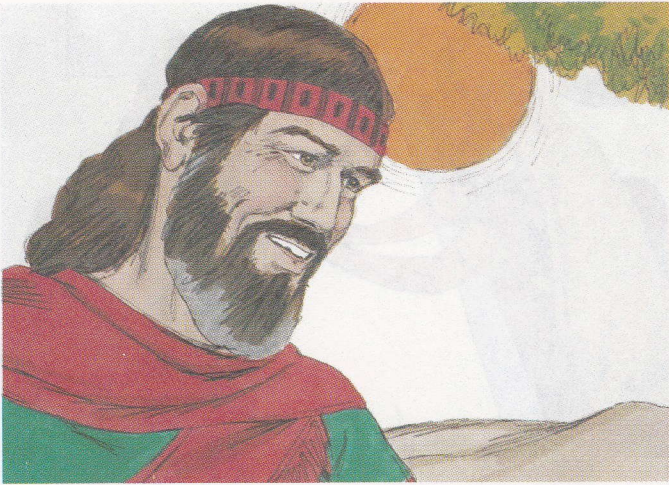
4 When Boaz noticed Ruth, he asked the man in charge about her. The man replied, "She asked to gather the grain the workers miss. She worked all morning and has just stopped to rest."



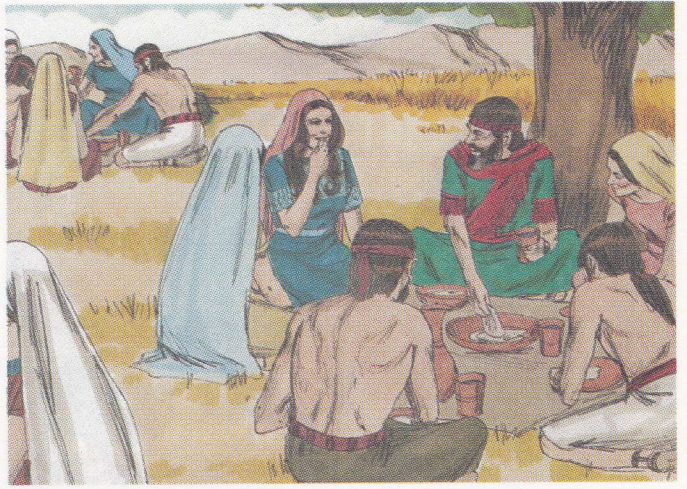
5 Boaz went over to Ruth. "Why don't you stay in my field?" he suggested. "Work close to the women. My men won't bother you, and when you get thirsty they will give you water."



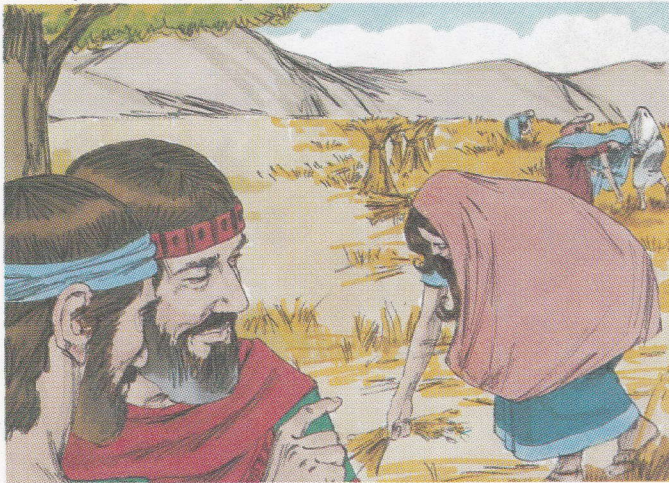
6 Ruth bowed down with her face touching the ground. She exclaimed, "Why should you be so concerned about me, a foreigner?"



7 Boaz answered, "I have heard about your kindness to Naomi. I know how you left your home and came to live among strangers. May the Lord reward you for what you have done."



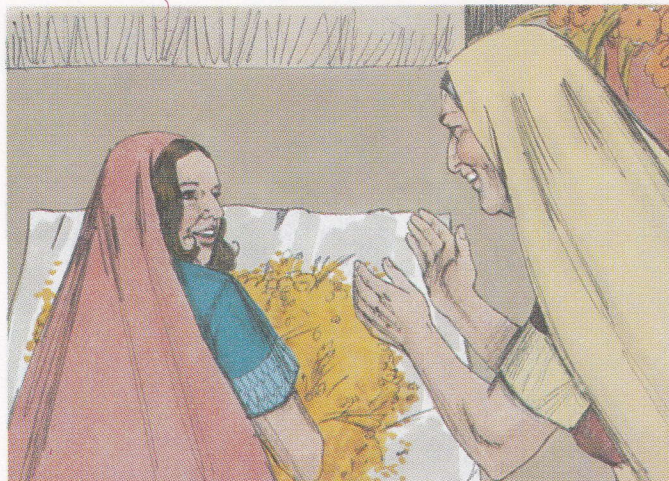
8 At lunch time, Boaz said to Ruth, "Come and eat with us." So she sat with the workers and Boaz and ate all the bread and barley grain she wanted.



9 After Ruth went back to work, Boaz gave orders to his workers: "Let her gather all she needs. And pull out some heads of grain from the bundles and leave them for her to pick up."



10 That evening when Ruth beat out the gathered grain, she found that she had about twenty-five pounds of it. Naomi was surprised and said, "From whose field did you get so much grain?"



11 Ruth told her the field belonged to Boaz. Naomi cried, "The Lord always keeps his promise to the living and the dead! That man is a relative who is responsible for taking care of us!"



12 Naomi was very happy that Boaz had told Ruth to keep on gathering in his field. Ruth would be safe there. So Ruth worked in Boaz's field until all the barley and wheat had been harvested.