

Children's Sermon
By Rev. Kristi Lounsbury



“And when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, nor shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the LORD your God.” Leviticus 23:22 ESV

Adult: Good morning! (Children answer).

Today we are going to talk about a woman we can read about in the Bible. Her name is Ruth. Ruth was what we call a widow. A widow is someone who was married but then her husband died. When her husband died, Ruth became poor because she did not have anyone to help with bringing in food or paying the bills. She did not have a lot of options, so she left with her husband's mom, Naomi, who is also called her mother-in-law to move to a place where Naomi knew that she and Ruth would be taken care of by family.

So, Naomi and Ruth moved to Bethlehem. There was a farmer named Boaz who would let those who were poor come glean (gather) the grains that fell when the workers were gathering the crops. These leftover grains could be used to make bread, a food that most people can use to fill their tummies. Plus, bread goes with almost everything.

Boaz knew that Ruth and Naomi would come to his fields so he told the workers, to shake just a little more off so that Ruth and Naomi could take home a little more. After a while, Boaz fell in love with Ruth. When Boaz married Ruth, he took Ruth and Naomi out of poverty (being poor) and gave them a new place in life.

The Loaves & Fishes Harvest Project in Brazil will kind of do the same thing for people. Today, when people are poor and need something to eat, they will often go to churches for help. Rather than having to keep coming back and asking over and over for help, the church in Brazil will partner with the person or families to become friends with the poor people, love them, and help give them a new place in life.

The churches in Brazil will help their new family members with their basic needs by providing food each month, helping with other needs that might come up, and sharing about the love of God. The church will help like Boaz helped Ruth and Naomi to have a new place in life and a family that cares for them.

Likewise, we in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church here stateside, now have the opportunity to join our family in Brazil by providing funding for the Harvest Project and helping our Brazilian Brothers and Sisters in Christ receive a new place in life.

Let Us Pray: God, help us to be like Boaz, a person of great faith and blessed with wealth, that we might be able to share with others your generosity so that others can have a new place in life. Amen