

Tracing the Hidden Hand

A Personal Reflection Worksheet from the Book of Ruth

“And she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz.” Ruth 2:3

“Happened.” That is how it looked to Ruth. She was a poor widow looking for any field where she could gather leftover grain. She had no idea that the field she walked into belonged to the one man who could change her family's future.

God never speaks out loud in the book of Ruth, and there are no dramatic miracles. He is at work the whole time anyway, through a famine, a move, a friendship, and a field. This worksheet is a way to look for that same quiet work in your own life. You do not need to fill in every line, and no one else needs to read it.

PART ONE

Look Back

1 A famine season

Naomi's story begins with hunger and loss (Ruth 1:1-5). *When was a time in your life that felt empty, or when God seemed silent?*

2 A Ruth

Ruth stayed with Naomi when she had every reason to leave (Ruth 1:16-17). *Who stayed beside you in a hard time when they did not have to?*

3 A “she happened to come” moment

A meeting, a move, a job, a phone call, a closed door. *What looked like chance at the time, but turned out to matter more than you could have known?*

4 A Boaz

Boaz gave Ruth far more than he was required to give (Ruth 2:14-16). *Who showed you kindness or met a need in a way that went beyond what anyone expected?*

PART TWO

Look Again

When Naomi came home she said, “the LORD has brought me home again empty” (Ruth 1:21). Ruth was standing right next to her when she said it, and the harvest was about to begin. Grief and worry can keep us from seeing what God has already put in place.

5 Connecting the dots

Read back over what you wrote on the first page. Where can you now see God's hand, even though you could not see it then?

6 What is standing next to me

Is there a person or a provision in your life right now that you may have been overlooking?

PART THREE

Look Ahead

7 Where I am waiting

Naomi told Ruth, “Sit still, my daughter, until you know how the matter will turn out” (Ruth 3:18). *What are you waiting on God for right now?*

8 Someone's Ruth, someone's Boaz

The book of Ruth keeps using a Hebrew word, *hesed*, that means loyal love: kindness that keeps its commitments even when it costs something. *Who could you show that kind of love to this week, and how?*

One honest note. Sometimes we look back and still cannot see what God was doing. Naomi never learned that the baby in her lap would be the grandfather of King David, or that Jesus would one day be born into the same family. Not seeing God's hand is not the same as God's hand being absent.

A prayer to borrow from Naomi: “Blessed be he of the LORD, who has not forsaken His kindness to the living and the dead!” **Ruth 2:20**