

Leaving: a generous legacy

Read: Ruth Chapter 4

Reflect

Boaz, free of the gravitational pull of wealth, acts for Naomi and Ruth at the city gates. Ruth, generous of character, sacrificially shares her new life with Naomi. Faithful generosity gifts a rich, unexpected legacy: a child to renew Naomi's life; a King for Israel and, for us, the promise of a saviour.

Pray

Lord, my prayer is simply, thank you. You are the giver of all things. Teach me to trust for my needs; to be generous with what is entrusted to me. Give me a heart of generous discipleship. Give me the grace of generosity. May my journey of generous discipleship today leave a rich legacy of generosity for tomorrow.

Amen.

Act

Take a moment to write down three blessings you have received from the generosity of others. What three actions can you take this Harvest to leave a rich legacy of generous discipleship - to others, to your church?

Generous Harvest

This harvest we continue, together, our journey of generosity with three challenges to take action

1. Review our giving to our church

Please pray about your giving. Are we giving in response to God's love for us? As you are able, increase your gift to sustain and grow the ministry of our church.

2. Join the Parish Giving Scheme

It's the most effective and efficient way to give to our church. You can:

Join online:

Scan the QR code to find your church's PGS page.



Join by phone:

Call 0333 002 1271. You can find your unique church code on the PGS website.

Join by paper form:

Ask your treasurer for a Gift form.

3. Leave a 'gift of life' to our church

Leaving a legacy of generosity is a part of our story as Christians. You may wish to take advice from a solicitor or an accredited professional Will writer. You can leave a gift to our church in your will by:

Updating your current Will with your solicitor to include a gift to our church

Writing a new online Will, at no cost at www.farewill.com/diocese-of-liverpool: a partnership of Farewill and the Church of England.

Writing a new Will at #FaithWill, a partnership of the Church of England and Christian Aid.

Generous Harvest

Exploring generous discipleship in the story of Ruth

Growing in: Generous Relationships

Read: Ruth Chapter 1

Reflect

Naomi's has lost everything. Her faith is on a knife edge. Her life is bitter; but not her heart. Naomi prays for Ruth to find the home and happiness Naomi has lost. Her generous heart reflects the overwhelming generosity of Ruth's love: 'where you go, I go; where you stay, I stay; your God is my God'.

Pray

Lord, sometimes it all seems too much. I feel sad, scared or stuck. I feel angry, anxious, alone. Keep me from bitterness. At Harvest we receive and share your gifts with joy and gladness. Give me grace to receive the generous love of others and nurture in me a generous heart that blesses others.

Amen.

Act

Take a moment to think of the generous relationships that sustain you. Then, think of one person who you can bless with a quick text, a thoughtful email, a phone call or a chat over coffee.

Growing in: Generous Giving

Read: Ruth Chapter 2

Reflect

Boaz has money. He shares it generously. The poor glean in his fields, as the law requires. He's heard about Ruth's care for Naomi. Boaz prays for Ruth's blessing, then answers his own prayer. Step by step his generosity grows. He gives more than the law requires; he gives generously, as Ruth's love for Naomi, as God's love requires.

Pray

Lord, all that I have, a lot or a little, is a gift you have entrusted to me. In a world that holds money tight give me grace to open my hands and my heart. Grant me gratitude for your gifts and contentment with what is given. On my journey of generosity keep me going and growing in generous giving.

Amen.

Act

Take a moment to thank God for his gifts to you. Then, think of one thing to do, one step to take that moves you further on your journey of generosity. Perhaps review *what* you give or *how* you give to the ministry of the church?

Growing in: Generous Character

Read: Ruth Chapter 3

Reflect

Everyone knows of Ruth's kindness to Naomi. Now Ruth has choices. But Ruth's promise was that in neither life nor death will she leave Naomi. Boaz knows it's Ruth's greatest act of kindness. Owing nothing Ruth is a woman rich in generous character and sacrificial giving.

Pray

Lord, where I have little, give me the generous character of Ruth. Where I have enough and to spare, give me the generous character of Ruth. Help me Lord not to settle for giving something, just enough, but to give sacrificially, of hand and heart.

Amen.

Act

Take a moment to remember when someone sacrificed something for you. Then, look for one thing this week where you can give above and beyond. There's an old saying: go the extra mile. It's never crowded!