

Kindness in our everyday lives

Week 2: Kindness in Generosity

WELCOME

Spend time relaxing and sharing together.

In November 2020, a six year old boy called Blake was sitting in a car at a McDonald's drive-through. As he talked to his mum about how he "wanted to do something kind" they decided to pay the bill for the driver who was behind them. Through that act of generosity came a chain reaction of kindness as each subsequent driver decided to join in and pay the bill for the car behind, leaving a smile on many people's faces, not just Blake's!

Encourage people to share times when they have been on the receiving end of an act of unexpected kindness or generosity.

WORSHIP

Read Psalm 65:8-13.

In this Psalm David, as he looks at the earth around him, marvels at God's provision and His generosity. As you let these verses wash over you, take time to praise God for His provision as well as for the situations that have just been shared.

WORD

The events told in Ruth happened at the same time as those in the book of Judges, yet the contrast between the two couldn't be greater. In looking at Judges over recent weeks we have glimpsed the consequences of straying from God. Nonetheless, some in that society stayed true to God and one such was Boaz, whom Ruth first meets in this week's passage. Whilst their meeting might initially appear to be a chance encounter, as the passage progresses we see that it is no accident but is instead part of the purpose of our loving and generous God.



Ruth's first meeting with Boaz

Read Ruth 2:1-16

1. What insights can we gain into Boaz's character and the impact it has on others from the way that he greets his workers in verse 4, and equally the way that they respond?

2. In verse 6 the foreman tells Boaz that Ruth had requested that she be allowed to glean remnants of the harvest. What does this tell us about Ruth and Naomi and also about the care and provision of God?

You may find it helpful to look at verses 2-3 as well as Leviticus 19:9-10.

3. How would you describe the actions of the foreman and Boaz towards Ruth, and in what ways do they challenge our behaviour?

You may find it helpful to look at verses 7-9 and 14-16.

4. If you had to describe Boaz in a single word or phrase, what would be it and why? Thinking of your word or phrase, how does the way that Boaz lives for God challenge the way that we live our daily lives?

Kindness in our everyday lives

5. Boaz's generous actions towards Ruth are in sharp contrast to the mindset of the rich young man in Matthew 19:16-22 who was greatly saddened when Jesus told him to sell his possessions and share his wealth with the poor; Boaz shows no signs of holding back in sharing what God had given him.

Are we sometimes too much like the rich fool, allowing our concerns about our future provision to hold us back in sharing what God has given us? What attitude should we have?

You may find it helpful to look at Malachi 3:10-12, Luke 6:38 and 1 Timothy 5:8 and 6:17-19.

Ruth reports to Naomi

Read Ruth 2:17-23

6. How does Naomi's attitude towards God change during Ruth chapter 2?

You may find it helpful to look at Ruth 1:20-21 and 2:19b and 20.

7. There were probably many fields that Ruth could have ended up gleaning in, yet she found herself in a field belonging to Boaz (Ruth 2:3). What does this and the way that the story then unfolds tell us about God?



You may find it helpful to look at Psalm 31:19 and 34:8 and Proverbs 16:33.

WHAT NEXT?

Boaz had a heart for God that caused him, in his everyday living, to be gracious, caring and generous with everyone. Through his actions, he modelled Godly character and helped others to see God for themselves.

As you think about this, discuss and share ideas about how might we be more like this in the places we find ourselves in our everyday lives (home, work, where we volunteer, school etc.), or alternatively as a church.

Personal reflection

There are many things we can be generous with:

- Your time – such as giving some of your time to a charity or spending time with someone who would otherwise be lonely;
- Your expertise – many charities are delighted when people with practical skills, financial expertise etc. offer to help;
- Your car – such as offering to provide lifts to elderly people;
- And, of course, your money!

Each of us lives in our own circumstances and we each have unique gifts that God has given us. As you reflect on your circumstances and gifts, what might God be called you to be generous with?