Leader Guide — October 18, 2026 • God Our Provider

Annual Theme: God's Unchanging Hand
Quarterly Theme: The Hand That Establishes
Week 7: God Our Provider
Lesson Scripture: Ruth 2:8–18, KJV

Memory Verse:

"The LORD recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust." — Ruth 2:12, KJV

Lesson Thesis: God makes His provision visible through people whose trust in Him becomes practical care, protection, and generosity toward their neighbors.

Teaching Goal: Help participants recognize God's care in the passage, examine how they give and receive assistance, and identify one practical response to a neighbor's need.

Prepare to Lead

Read the focal passage alongside Ruth 1:16–22 and Ruth 2:1–7. Notice what Ruth and Naomi have lost, what Ruth is willing to do, and what Boaz makes available.

Review Deuteronomy 24:19–22. Gleaning was a provision God commanded Israel to make for vulnerable neighbors. Israel's memory of slavery was meant to shape its generosity.

Prepare to teach people who occupy different positions. Some participants have resources to share. Others need assistance. Many experience both. Invite reflection without requiring anyone to disclose financial hardship, grief, or other private circumstances.

Leader's posture: Lord, help me honor the people in the room as carefully as I explain the people in the passage.

Suggested Session Flow

Movement	Suggested Time	Purpose
Welcome and opening question	5 minutes	Connect the lesson with lived experience

Read Scripture and establish context	7 minutes	Let the text frame the discussion
Explore the four teaching movements	20 minutes	Examine how provision takes practical form
Discuss and choose a response	10 minutes	Move from understanding to action
Prayer and closing	3 minutes	Entrust needs and responses to God

Adapt the timing to your group. Allow the discussion to deepen where participants are engaging meaningfully.

Open the Conversation

Ask: **“When someone helped you, what made that help feel respectful?”**

Allow two or three responses. Listen for kindness, privacy, patience, choice, and follow-through.

Introduce the lesson with this observation:

“Ruth needed food, but Boaz’s response also addressed safety, belonging, and dignity. We will look closely at how his care reached the whole person.”

Establish the Setting

Briefly explain:

- Ruth’s story takes place during the period of the judges; the book does not identify a particular reigning judge or contemporary prophet.
- Naomi and Ruth are widows who have returned from Moab to Bethlehem.
- Ruth is a Moabite living among people unfamiliar to her.
- Their arrival coincides with barley harvest.
- Gleaning allows people in need to gather grain left behind by harvesters.
- Boaz is a relative of Naomi’s late husband, Elimelech; his role in family redemption develops later in the book.

Read Ruth 2:8–18 aloud. Ask participants to listen for **what Boaz says, what he provides, and what Ruth does**.

Guide the Four Teaching Movements

I. God’s Provision Makes Room for the Vulnerable — Ruth 2:8–9

Draw attention to: Boaz's instructions about where Ruth should remain, the protection he establishes, and her access to water.

Ask: "What might Ruth have faced if Boaz had permitted gleaning but ignored how his workers treated her?"

Listen for: Permission alone would not address possible harassment, intimidation, or exclusion.

Develop the point: Boaz uses his authority to shape the environment. His care includes responsibility for what happens in his field.

Bring it home: "Where do we have influence over whether someone feels safe, welcomed, and able to participate?"

Teaching Truth: Faithful care makes room for people to receive help without being exposed to harm.

II. God's Provision Recognizes the Person Behind the Need — Ruth 2:10–13

Draw attention to: Ruth's surprise, Boaz's knowledge of her story, his blessing, and her statement that his words have comforted her.

Ask: "What does Boaz acknowledge about Ruth that could easily have been overlooked?"

Listen for: Her grief, loyalty to Naomi, departure from her homeland, and trust in Israel's God.

Develop the point: Boaz's attention gives personal depth to his generosity. Ruth experiences being seen as well as being helped.

Bring it home: "How can listening change the help we offer?"

Teaching Truth: God's care becomes visible when we attend to someone's story and speak in ways that restore dignity and hope.

III. God's Provision Becomes Deliberate Generosity — Ruth 2:14–16

Draw attention to: The invitation to eat, Ruth's satisfaction and remaining food, and the instructions to leave grain intentionally.

Ask: "Where does Boaz move beyond allowing Ruth to glean?"

Listen for: He welcomes her to the meal, permits access among the sheaves, arranges additional grain, and forbids reproach.

Develop the point: His generosity has a plan. He gives instructions that others can carry out and considers how Ruth will be treated.

Bring it home: “What would turn a concern we have expressed into an action we can complete?”

Teaching Truth: Compassion matures into generosity when we intentionally use what we have to help meet another person’s need.

IV. God’s Provision Reaches Beyond the First Recipient — Ruth 2:17–18

Draw attention to: Ruth’s continued labor, the grain she carries home, and the food she shares with Naomi.

Ask: “How does someone who never entered Boaz’s field benefit from his kindness?”

Listen for: Ruth carries both the harvest and her remaining food to Naomi.

Develop the point: Generosity, opportunity, and labor work together. The benefits reach a household beyond the immediate encounter.

Bring it home: “Who else might benefit when we support a caregiver, parent, or person responsible for others?”

Teaching Truth: Provision received with gratitude can become care shared with others.

Lead the Reflection

Biblical Understanding: What did Boaz provide for Ruth besides permission to gather grain?

Help participants identify protection, water, welcome, food, comforting speech, and deliberate assistance. Return to specific verses so the answers remain grounded in the text.

Theological Insight: How do Boaz’s actions help us understand his prayer about refuge beneath God’s wings?

Boaz asks God to shelter and reward Ruth, then participates in her care. His conduct gives practical expression to his prayer.

Community Reflection: What would need to change for vulnerable people to receive help safely and with dignity in our community?

Encourage concrete observations about access, respectful treatment, privacy, and reliable assistance. Let participants name both existing strengths and needed improvements.

Personal Application: What practical act of generosity can I intentionally carry out this week?

Invite an achievable response. A useful commitment identifies the need, the available resource, and the next step.

Spiritual Formation: Where is God teaching me to receive help humbly or share what I have more freely?

Allow quiet reflection. Participants may be wrestling with pride, fear, shame, distrust, or attachment to resources. They may also be learning wise boundaries and responsible generosity.

Keep the Teaching Grounded

Do not make hardship a verdict on faith. Ruth's need exists alongside costly faithfulness. The passage does not teach that trust in God prevents bereavement or material difficulty.

Keep labor within its context. Ruth works diligently, and Boaz provides conditions in which her labor can bear fruit. Avoid turning her example into the claim that every hardship can be solved by working harder.

Distinguish the prayer from a universal formula. Boaz asks God to reward Ruth. This particular story does not promise rapid material success to everyone who behaves faithfully.

Let the Christ connection follow the biblical story. Boaz's family redemption later provides a meaningful correspondence to Christ's redeeming work. Ruth and Boaz also belong to the genealogy leading to Jesus (Matthew 1:5–6). Keep Boaz's role in this chapter clear as you trace that larger connection.

Help the Group Choose a Response

Invite participants to complete one of these statements privately:

Someone I can help: "This week, I can offer _____ by _____."

Help I need to receive: "This week, I can speak with _____ about _____."

For a group response, choose one manageable action and assign a person to coordinate it. Ask the intended recipient what would be useful. Follow through with care for their privacy and preferences.

At the next gathering, invite reflection on what participants learned. The purpose is to grow in faithful care.

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for the refuge we find in You. Help us recognize Your provision and receive it with gratitude. Teach us to use our words, resources, and influence with compassion. Give us

wisdom to notice real needs and faithfulness to follow through. Let the grace we receive in Christ shape the care our neighbors experience through us. Amen.

Send the Group With This: “Whose need has God placed within my reach, and what faithful step can I take?”