Family Handout — October 18, 2026 • God Our Provider

Annual Theme: God's Unchanging Hand
Quarterly Theme: The Hand That Establishes
Week 7: God Our Provider
Read Together: 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

Our Family Truth: God cares for us, and He teaches us to make His kindness visible through our care for others.

Start the Conversation

Think of a time someone helped you. What did that person do? How did the way they treated you affect how you felt?

Give each person an opportunity to answer. Children may remember help with homework, an invitation to play, or someone comforting them when they were afraid. Adults may remember a meal, a ride, financial assistance, or a friend who stayed close during grief.

Help comes in many forms. This lesson teaches us to notice both the need and the person experiencing it.

The Story in Plain Language

Ruth and her mother-in-law, Naomi, had both lost their husbands. They came to Bethlehem needing food. Ruth went to gather grain left behind by the harvesters—a practice called **gleaning**. God had instructed His people to leave some of their harvest for people in need.

Ruth entered a field belonging to Boaz. He learned about her loyalty to Naomi and treated her kindly. He gave her a safe place to work, water to drink, and food to eat. He also told his workers to leave extra grain where she could gather it.

Ruth worked until evening and carried the grain home. She shared with Naomi the food remaining from her meal. The kindness Ruth received reached someone else through her.

Four Truths to Remember

1. Make room for someone who needs help.
Boaz welcomed Ruth and protected her. We can make room by including someone, listening patiently, and helping people feel safe.

2. Notice the person behind the need.
Boaz knew something about Ruth's story. We can ask respectful questions and listen instead of assuming we understand someone's situation.

3. Make kindness practical.
Boaz gave clear instructions that helped Ruth gather food. We can move from "I hope things get better" to a specific action within our ability.

4. Let kindness travel.
Ruth shared with Naomi. What we receive can help us recognize opportunities to care for someone else.

Talk About It Together

1. **Biblical Understanding:** What did Boaz provide besides grain?
2. **Theological Insight:** What does seeking shelter beneath God's wings teach us about trusting Him?
3. **Community Reflection:** Who might feel overlooked or left out in our school, neighborhood, church, or workplace?
4. **Personal Application:** What could our household do this week to help meet a real need?
5. **Spiritual Formation:** Which is harder for you—asking for help or offering it? What might help you grow?

For younger children, ask: **"How can we help someone feel cared for this week?"**

Family Practice — Handfuls of Kindness

Boaz told his workers to leave "handfuls of purpose" for Ruth. His kindness was intentional. Choose one practical act of care your household can complete this week.

It might be sharing a meal, helping with a task, providing a ride, including someone in an activity, or checking on a person who lives alone. Ask what would be useful before deciding what to give.

Complete these sentences together:

The need we have noticed: _____

What we can offer: _____

Who will take the next step: _____

When we will do it: _____

Children can participate through an age-appropriate task with adult guidance. Keep another person's circumstances private, and offer help respectfully.

Afterward, talk about what you learned. Did you listen well? Did the person have room to accept or decline? How did the experience shape your understanding of kindness?

When Our Family Needs Help

Sometimes we are the household with something to share. Sometimes we are the household needing support.

Ruth received kindness and continued caring for Naomi. Receiving assistance did not take away her dignity or her ability to contribute.

Practice saying: **"We could use some help with _____."**

A need is something we can bring before God and share with trustworthy people. We can receive help with gratitude while taking the steps available to us.

Looking to Jesus

Boaz's kindness belongs to a story that eventually leads to Jesus. Ruth and Boaz became ancestors of King David, and Matthew 1:5–6 includes them in Jesus' family line.

Jesus reveals God's care through His welcome, compassion, and saving work. As we trust Him, He teaches us to love our neighbors with the love we have received.

Family Prayer

Father, thank You for caring for our household. Help us trust You with our needs and receive help with gratitude. Open our eyes to someone we can serve. Teach us to listen, speak kindly, and follow through. Let our home become a place where Your love is practiced. In Jesus' name, amen.

Carry This With You: The kindness we receive can become kindness someone else experiences.