



# THRIVE CHURCH

GROWTH GROUP STUDY GUIDE | SERIES: GOD > STRUGGLE

TITLE: STRANGE BLESSINGS

SCRIPTURE: RUTH 2

## One Thing Follow-up

**We are reminded that we may not be the best judge of our circumstances.**

**We must recognize the good ways God has provided in difficulty.**

**Realize that God may be doing something bigger than you think.**

Q. Share an example from your life of one of these three truths.

## Opening

As Christians, Scripture is our guide. This means all Scripture, not just the warm and fuzzy parts. Scripture can be hard, convicting. Everything we need to know about God and everything God has to say to Christians can be found on the pages of Scripture.

## Series Review

We are continuing our series this week in the book of Ruth. This series will help us to see that God is greater than our struggles; that he is still at work in our difficulty; that God has a plan for everything. It's a book about love.

## Review the Message

**Ruth was written during the dark time of the Judges. It's a time when there was no king and everyone did whatever seemed right in their own eyes. As we study Ruth, we see:**

- **God's commitment is strong when our faith is weak.**
- **God's plans are fixed when our future is uncertain.**
- **God uses those he blesses to bless those who don't necessarily bless him!**

### Read Ruth 2.1-3

Q. When has a "coincidence" ended up putting you right where you needed to be?

Q. How can we see God at work in these verses?

**God's providential hand is best observed from the rear-view mirror. In other words, we understand God's plan best once we have past a difficulty situation.**

Q. Share a time when you have seen God's work from the rear-view mirror.

**Read Ruth 2:.**

Q. What do we immediately learn about Boaz from this verse?

Q. Who have been your role models as you grew up? Who are they now?

**Read Ruth 2. 8-10**

Q. How do you respond to newcomers or "foreigners"?

Q. How do you respond when someone shows favor to you?

**Read Ruth 2.11-12**

Q. Share a time when you were treated in an unexpected way.

**God's grace is better than expected. Where you are from, and what you have done, are washed away by what God does for you.**

**When the community of God works as it should, it is always gracious and welcoming, especially to the poor and downtrodden.**

**The world responds one way; the people of the true God respond differently.**

Q. How has the way you respond to others changed?

Q. How have you been blessed by being the church?

**Read Ruth 2,15-18**

Q. Share a time when you realized that God blessed you more than you realized.

**Read Ruth 2.21-23**

Q. How has God blessed you not only today, but for your future?

## **Recap**

**God is at work even when we don't see it. We need to train our eyes to see the hand of God. God brings people and circumstances into our life and we can miss them because we get caught up in "me."**

**God is often doing things bigger than we could every imagine. How we live matters because we often don't know the bigger plans God is orchestrating.**

**The community of God is a place of Grace. Rooted in Scripture, driven by love.**

## **Living It Out Application**

**There is hope with the people of God because of the Son of God.**

Q. What is God saying to you through this lesson?

Q. What will you do about it this coming week?

Q. How can we help you?

## **Prayer:**

Q. Are there any specific things we need to pray about or needs to focus on?