



**St Helen's  
St Edmund's**

## Finding Hope Under Bethlehem Skies

### Finding Kindness in a Cruel World - Ruth Chapter 2

Start by reading all of Ruth chapter 2 praying that God would be at work by his Spirit during your time together.

1. I'm sure you don't need convincing we live in a cruel world that often leaves us feeling pretty beaten up. What are some of the ways life feels hard for you at the moment?
2. In Ruth chapter 2 Ruth and Naomi are hunting for kindness in a cruel world. Bethlehem at the time was a dangerous place. It was dangerous for Ruth to go out in the fields and glean. She finds extraordinary kindness shown to her in Boaz. Look at the following verses to see this - verses 8-9 and 14-16. Notice Naomi's reaction when she comes home - verses 19-20.
3. The Old Testament points us forward to Jesus. Jesus says the following in Luke 24:27, 'and beginning with Moses and all the Prophets (that's the Old Testament!), he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.' The super children's Bible, The Jesus Storybook Bible, puts it like this; 'every story whispers his name.' So we should look through Boaz to Jesus. In what ways does Boaz point us forward to Jesus?
4. As Ruth turns to Bethlehem and seeks refuge in God she finds incredible kindness in Boaz. As we turn to God we find incredible kindness in Jesus. What ways have you find Jesus to be kind to you?
5. If we are those who have been warmed by Jesus' kindness won't we want to display that kindness to others? What would it look like this out in the coming week and over the coming Festive season?