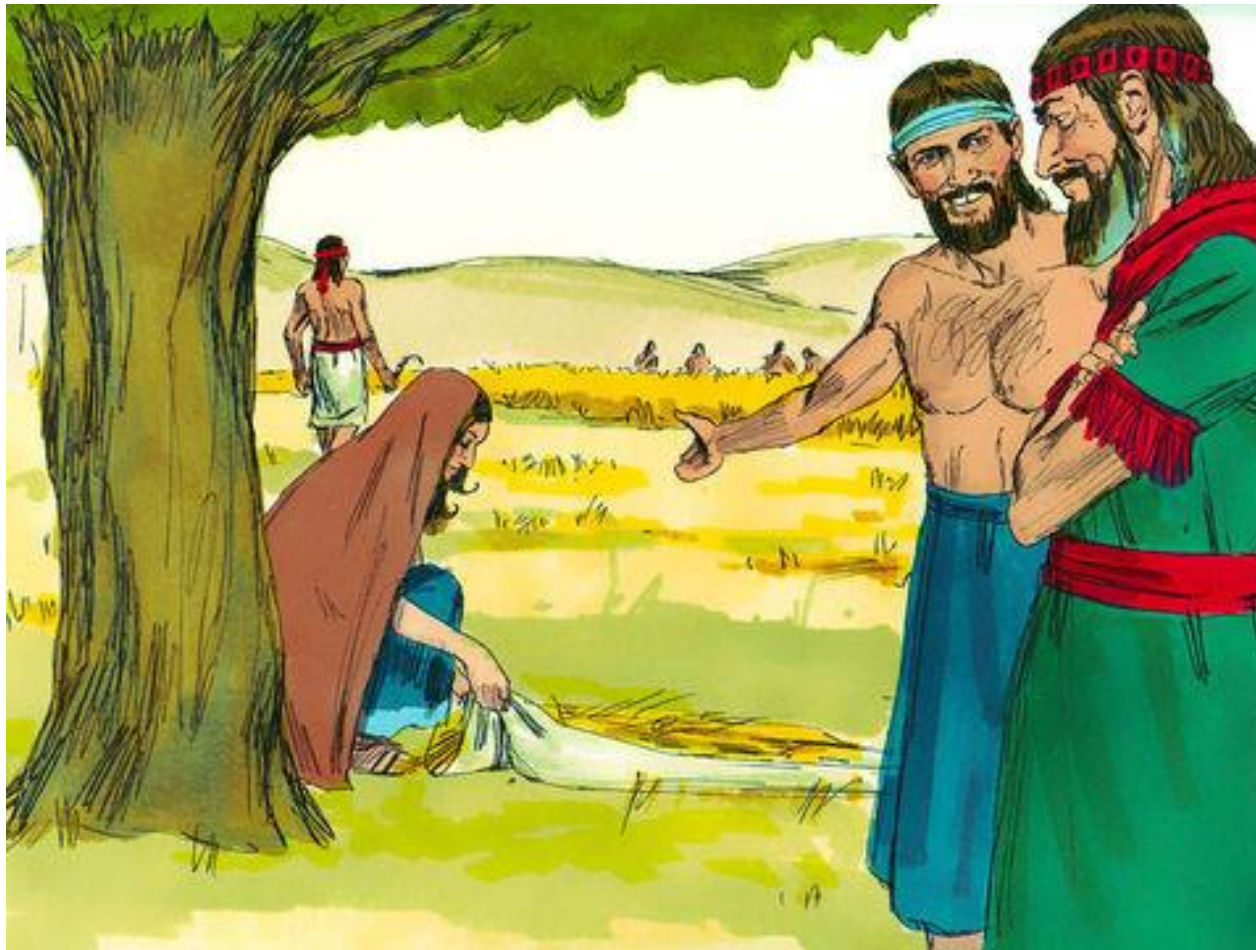




Review

Last week we began the story of Ruth. Ruth and her mother-in-law, Naomi, had endured much pain and hurt. They lost their loved ones in a foreign land and moved back to Bethlehem. There in Bethlehem Ruth gleaned in the fields to find food because she and Naomi were too poor to buy any food. Gleaning was when people who did not have any food would go behind harvesters and pick the grain off the ground for themselves to keep. Long ago, in Moses' time, God had given his people a law that said if stalks of barley dropped to the ground, the reapers could not pick them up. Instead they needed to be left there for the poor, those who had no barley or food of their own. So, the poor would come behind the workers to pick up the leftover barley. This is called "gleaning."

This was a way to care for the poor so they would have food to eat.



Ruth Meets Boaz

Ruth was gleaning in a field owned by a man named Boaz. When Boaz came to his field, he looked around and saw a young woman gleaning in his field. He noticed she had not been there before, so Boaz asked his lead worker, “Whose young woman is this?” The servant answered, “She is the young woman from Moab who came back to Bethlehem with Naomi.” The young woman had asked the lead worker, “Please let me glean and gather after the reapers.” She worked all morning and had only rested a little. The young woman Boaz had seen was Ruth.



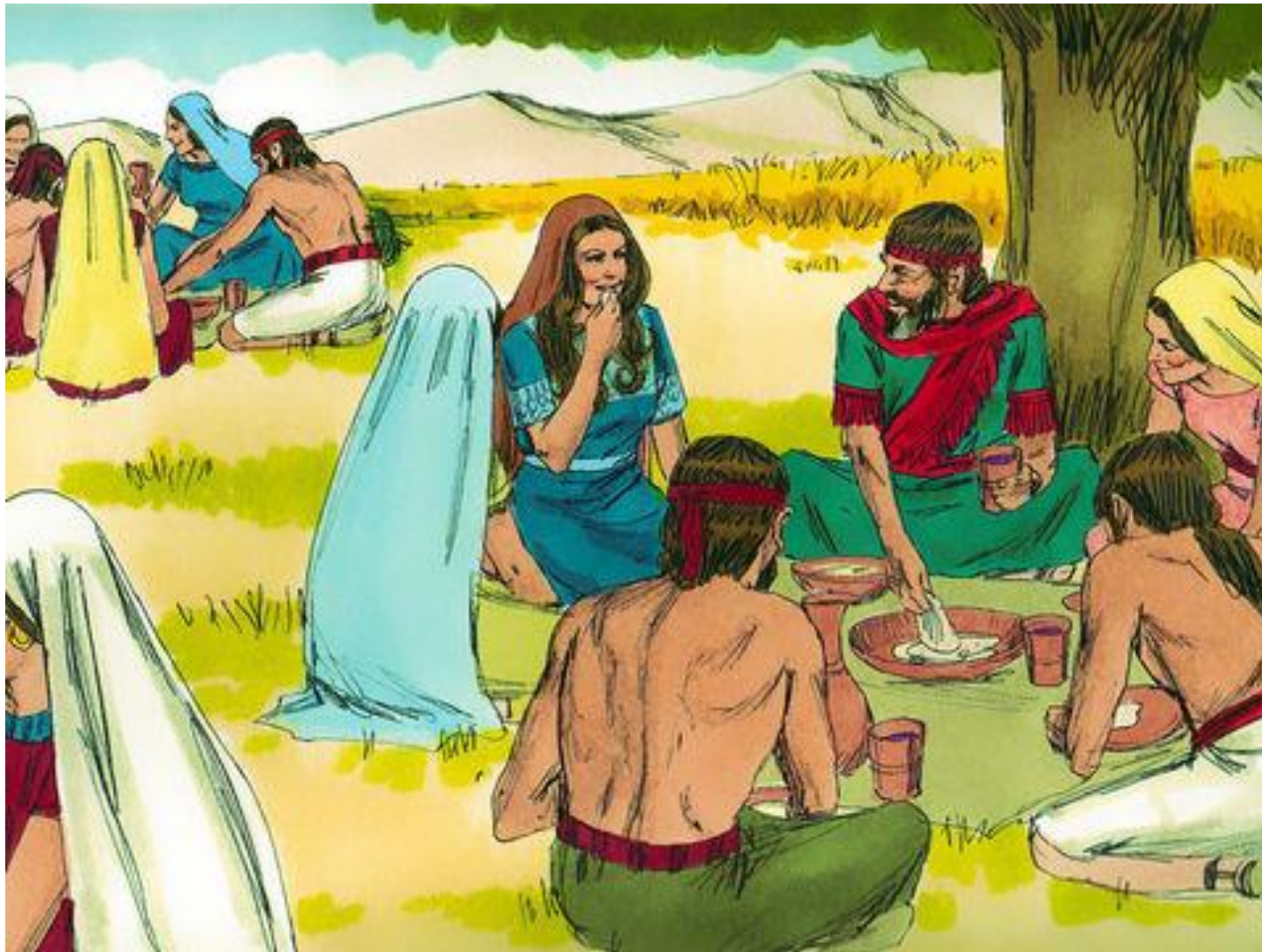
Boaz went to Ruth as she was gleaning and told her, “Do not go to glean in another field, or leave here, but stay close by the other young women.” Boaz wanted Ruth to be safe and have food.



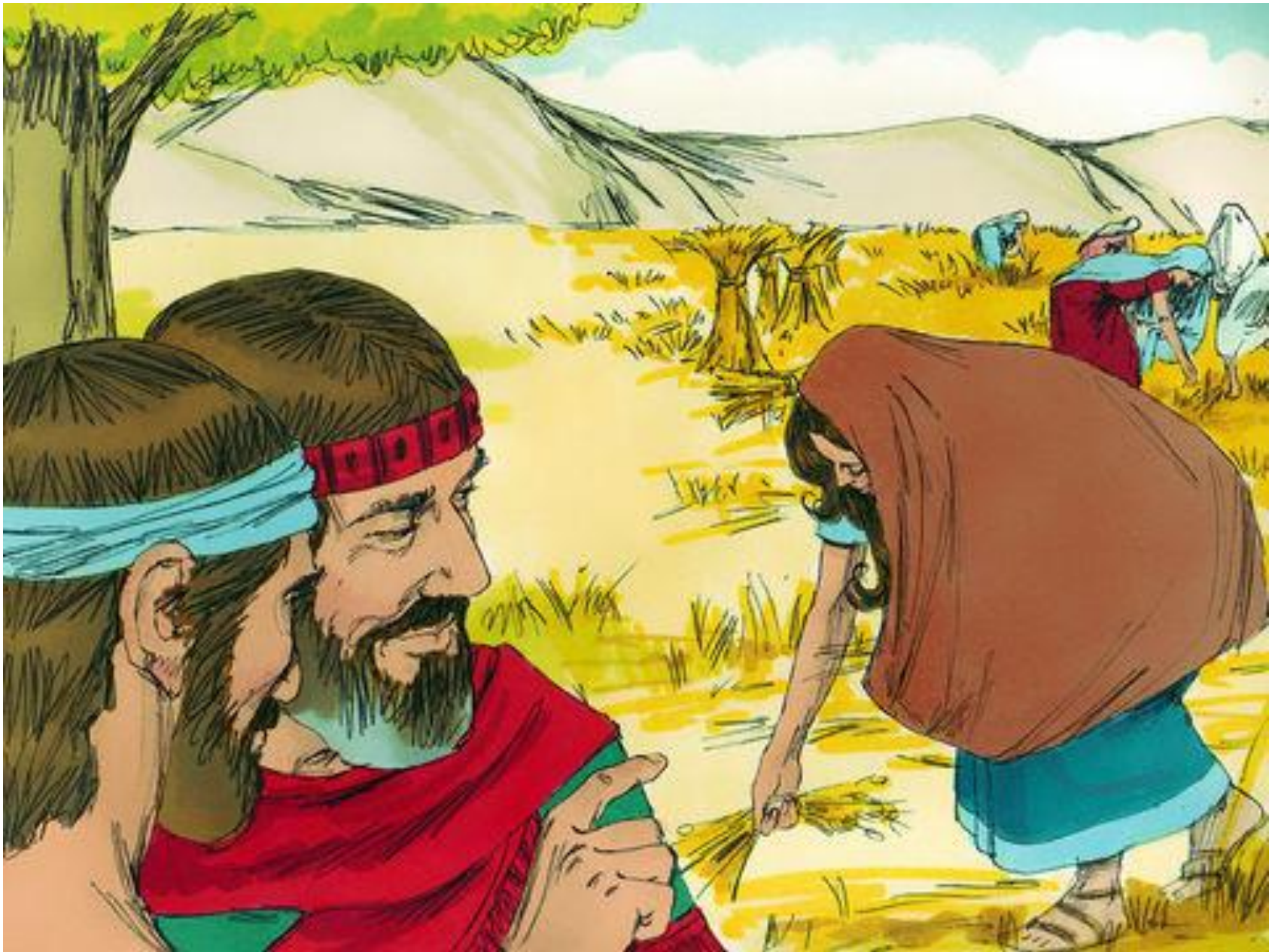
The Bible says when Ruth heard his words she fell on her face, bowed down to the ground, and said to Boaz, “I am a stranger. Why have you been so kind to notice me?” Boaz explained how he heard about her. How he had heard about all that she had done for Naomi and how she had come to live with a people who she did not know. “The Lord repay your work”, Boaz said, “and a full reward be given you by the Lord God of Israel under whose wings you have come for help.”



Ruth said to Boaz, “You are very kind to me. You have said kind words to me, your servant. You have given me hope. And I am not even good enough to be one of your servants.” But Boaz’s kindness did not end there.



When it was time for lunch, Boaz asked Ruth to sit down and eat with the workers. The Bible says he gave her bread. And after Ruth returned to her work in the fields, Boaz told his servants, "Let her glean wherever she wants, and even let some extra stalks fall from the bundles for her." Boaz wanted to make sure Ruth had plenty of barley to glean.



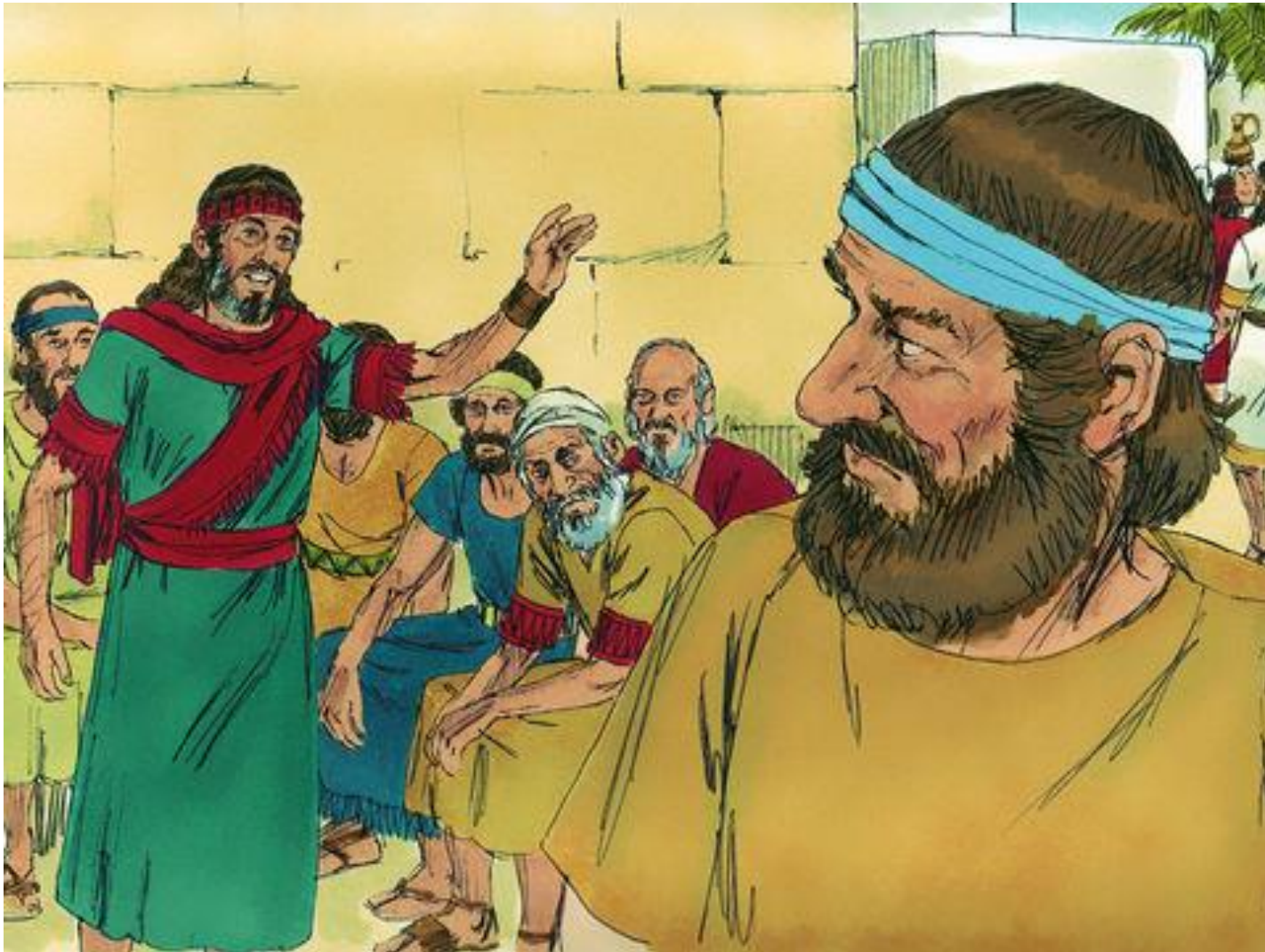
Ruth gleaned all day. When evening came, she returned with all her barley to Naomi.



“Where did you glean today?” Naomi asked. Ruth told her all about Boaz. Ruth was so surprised to hear this from Naomi, “Blessed is the Lord, who has not stopped being kind. Boaz is a relative of yours! He will take care of us.” That was very important because in those days it was customary in Israel that when a man died and had no children, just like Ruth’s husband did, a relative would marry the lady. God had planned for Ruth to glean in Boaz’s field. When Ruth first went there, she did not know that Boaz was a relative. But God did!

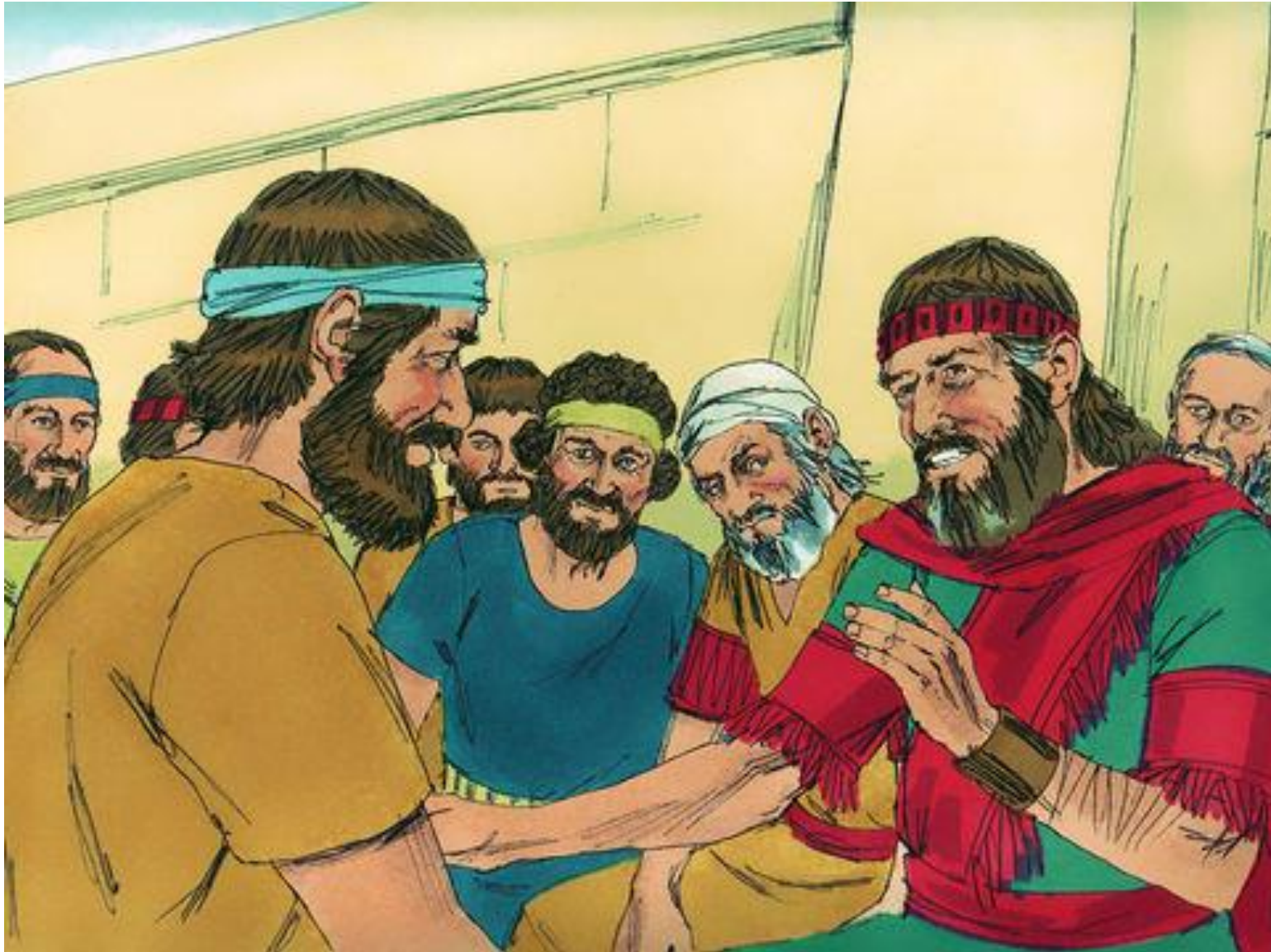


Then Ruth said, “Boaz also told me to come back and continue working. He said, ‘Keep close by my servants until they have finished the harvest.’” Naomi said to Ruth, “It is good for you to continue working with his women servants. If you work in another field, someone might hurt you.” So, Ruth continued working closely with the women servants of Boaz so she would be protected. She gathered grain until the barley harvest was finished. She also worked there through the end of the wheat harvest. And Ruth continued to live with Naomi in the land of Judah.

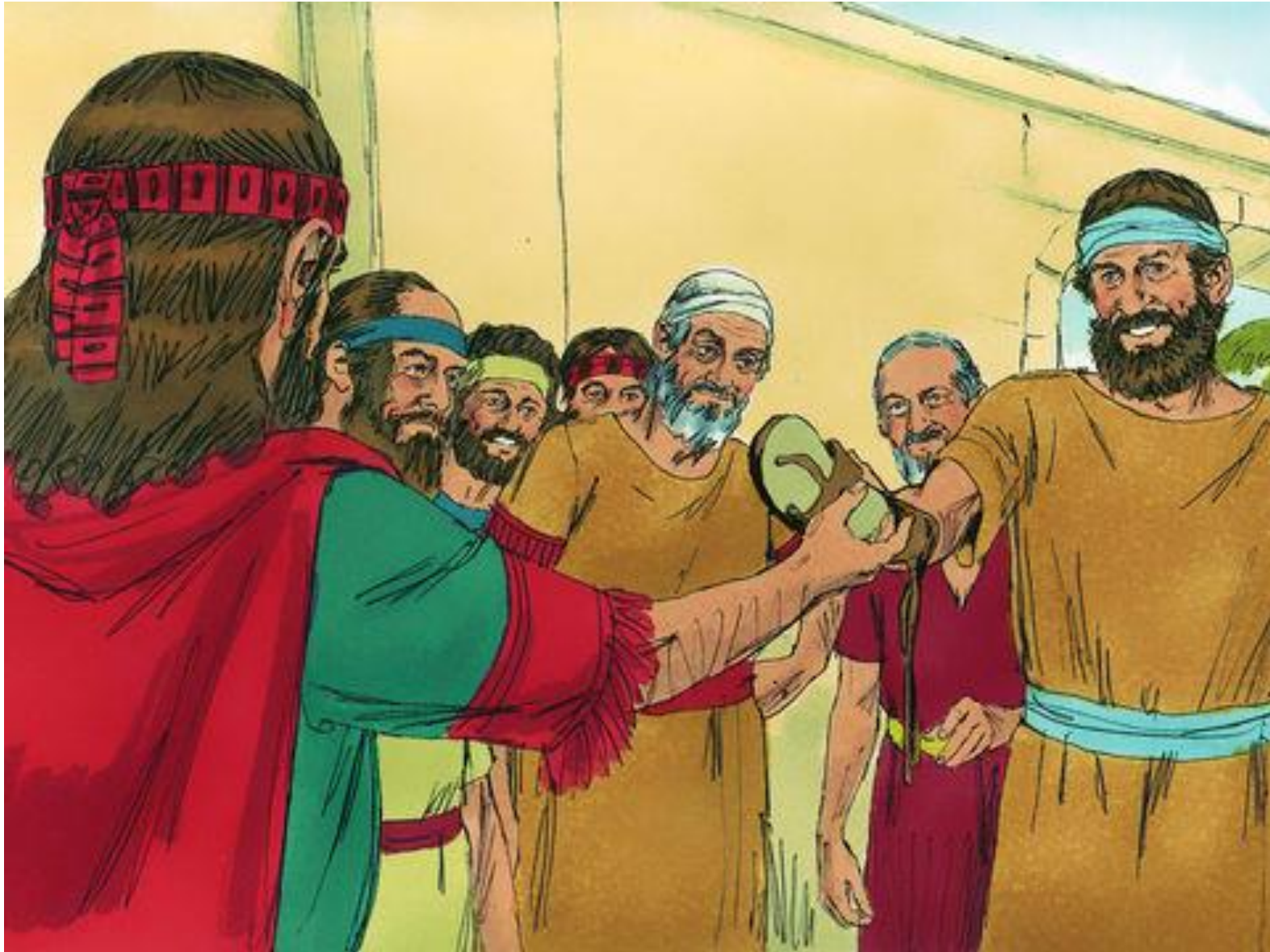


Boaz Marries Ruth

Something happened as Boaz watched Ruth glean in his fields. He began to love Ruth and she began to love him. But there was a little problem. In those days, the next closest male relative in the family could marry a lady whose husband had died. Boaz and Naomi were from the same family. Boaz wanted to marry Ruth, but there was another man who was a closer relative to her. So, Boaz went to this man to see if he would want to marry Ruth.



“Naomi has come back to Bethlehem and has a lot of land. Do you want to buy it?” Boaz asked the man. The closer relative was first-in-line to buy the land if he wanted to. “Of course!” the closer relative replied.



“Okay. Also, you will need to marry Ruth if you want to buy the land since she is without a husband,” Boaz explained. The closer relative did not want to marry Ruth. He already had a wife and sons to take care of. The closer relative then decided he did not want to buy Naomi’s land or marry Ruth. This meant Boaz could now do both.



So, Ruth and Boaz got married. In time a baby was born. His name was Obed. Ruth and Boaz were so happy and so was Naomi. Her life had been very sad when her husband and sons had died. But now the Lord had given a baby boy for her to love. Naomi's friends would look at little Obed and say, "Blessed be the Lord." Boaz became a kinsman. This means he was a relative of Ruth and Naomi who redeemed, or saved, them from a life of sadness and being poor.

And there was one more surprise for Naomi and Ruth, and Boaz as well. A big surprise that they probably never knew about when they lived on earth! Little Obed grew up to be the grandfather of the great King David. And in time a relative of King David would be born; a king greater than David, and his name would be Jesus. God uses the story of Ruth to show us that God always keeps His promises.

Questions for Review

Have the kids answer “Yes” if it is true, or “no” with the correct answer if it is false.

- God wants us to worship and love Him. (Yes)
- God will never leave us. (Yes)
- God always keeps His promises. (Yes)
- Ruth gleaned in the fields of Boaz. (Yes)
- Boaz told Ruth to leave his field and never come back. (No! Boaz told Ruth to come to his field as much as she wanted.)
- Gleaning means to pick up the harvest or grain that the workers dropped on the ground. (Yes)
- Boaz was a relative of Ruth and Naomi and this made Naomi very happy. (Yes)
- Boaz was very kind to Ruth and Naomi. (Yes)
- Boaz married Ruth quickly. (No! Boaz had to see if a closer relative of Naomi’s wanted to marry Ruth first.)
- The closer relative married Ruth. (No! He did not want to marry her.)
- Boaz and Ruth were married. (Yes)
- Boaz and Ruth had a baby boy named Obed. (Yes)
- Obed was the grandfather of King David. (Yes)
- God always loves us. (Yes)



Scripture Memory and Hand Motions for May:

“The Lord raised up judges, who saved them out of the hand of those who plundered them.” Judges 2:16

- **The Lord** (*point upwards*)
- **Raised up** (*take both arms, palms up, and lift up towards sky*)
- **Judges** (*act like you are hitting a gavel*)
- **Who saved them** (*put wrists together, and then break apart like you’re breaking free*)
- **Out of the hand** (*point to the inside of your hand*)
- **Of those who plundered them.** (*forcefully reach out and act as though you’re grabbing something*)