

5. Read Deuteronomy 4:5-8, part God's introduction to his law and the 10 Commandments.

Deuteronomy 4: ⁵ See, I have taught you decrees and laws as the Lord my God commanded me, so that you may follow them in the land you are entering to take possession of it. ⁶ Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people." ⁷ What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the Lord our God is near us whenever we pray to him? ⁸ And what other nation is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today?

How did the law of Israel (and the obedience of God's people) play a role in blessing the nations?

6. How is the law of gleaning (and giving generously) an expression of holiness?

7. Throughout your life, what has motivated and grown your generosity?

BLESS - Part 5

"Steward Your Resources"

Ruth 2:1-12

Can we learn how to share our faith in a way that's natural and relational and more effective so that we can help people who are far from God find their way back to God?

The key to sharing our faith in a way that's natural, relational, and more effective is found in a the word _____.

The 5 BLESS Missional Practices:

- **B**egin with prayer.
- **L**isten with care.
- **E**at together (share your life).
- Serve in love.
- Share your story.

Bonus: S _____ your resources.

Stewarding our resources is one of the most impactful ways we partner with God in blessing the _____.

In the biblical story, stewarding our resources is about recognizing that everything we have belongs ultimately to _____.

THE PERSON

One of the interesting features of the story of God is that most of the heroes of faith are deeply flawed and that the Bible majors in pointing out their flaws!

It not only mentions their flaws; it _____ their flaws.

THE ACTION

Leviticus 19: ⁹ "When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. ¹⁰ Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the Lord your God.

The law of gleaning wasn't only an expression of love and compassion toward the poor, or even of justice, it was depicted as the fruit of _____.

The law of gleaning required obedience on the part of landowners. It required landowners to properly steward their land, a land over whom God is the ultimate owner and _____.

It took a significant act of faith in God (in his provision) and it took an enormous act of obedience to leave so much of the crop _____.

Two farmers. Which would you be?

THE BLESSING

Boaz is an exemplary good steward of his influence and his _____.

The law of gleaning was the way God provided for the poor so it blessed the _____.

Gleaning demonstrated the compassionate care of God for the less fortunate and the outsider so it glorified the character of God to the watching _____.

What Boaz is able to harvest is enough. What he leaves behind doesn't take away from his enough. If he takes from what God says to leave behind, he declares that what been given by God is not _____.

A simple act of stewardship, recognizing that God owns it all, is a way of partnering with God in his mission to _____ the world...just like Boaz.

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Read Ruth 2:1-12. What are some of the ways that Boaz's actions demonstrated his devotion to God?
3. Why is it so hard to remember that all we have belongs to God?
4. How does the discipline of giving in a generous way help us remember that everything we have belongs to God?