

Harvest

In the book of Genesis, God makes this promise to us: "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease". At this time of year, we particularly think of harvests, the results both of farmers' labour and of God's provision.

There is a beautiful Bible story about King David's great-grandmother Ruth, which takes place during the barley and wheat harvests. As a young widow, she has travelled to her mother-in-law's country to take care of them both. She follows the tradition of picking up grain left at the edges of fields and among the sheaves by the men harvesting. Boaz is impressed by Ruth's kindness and hard work, and she soon becomes his wife.

Jesus sometimes used stories about everyday events to explain his message. One such parable is about a farmer who scatters the seed, not just on good soil, but also on the path, in rocky places and among thorns. Jesus knows that God's word goes out to everyone, but distractions and troubles may make it difficult for us to hear. When we do listen and understand, though, the fruit in our lives can be amazing.

So let us then be grateful to God and generous to others. Many churches celebrated Harvest Festival with special services, when items were given to be donated to food banks. Some of us as children said Grace before meals, a simple prayer of thanks to God. One example goes like this: "God is great, God is good; let us thank Him for our food. Amen."

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