Journey Companions

The book of Ruth tells the story of two strong women – Naomi and Ruth, mother and daughter in law. The story starts with the death of all the men in the family: Ruth's husband dies of old and two of her sons die of deadly diseases. The tragedy forces Naomi to return back to Israel from the land of Moav, while she tries to persuade her two daughters in law – Ruth and Orpah – to stay in their homeland, the land of Moav, and not immigrate to Israel.

Naomi wanted to get back home – to the land she knew, and the people whose language and culture she loved. But Orpah and Ruth had to decide on whether their relationship with Naomi was worth the sacrifice of immigrating to a foreign country.

After a lengthy argument, Orpah decides to stay in the land of Moab, but Ruth chooses to follow Naomi. She says:

"And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God"

Ruth 1:16

Ruth's faith in Naomi was so strong that she chooses to leave everything she knows and follow Naomi to a new and foreign land. This decision proves to be worth it – not only does Naomi fix Ruth with the best husband around, Boaz, but also Ruth become the great-grandmother of king David. Did someone say anything about long term investment?

There are people in our lives that serve a positive influence and we are even willing to make personal sacrifices to stay in touch with them. These are relationships that are well worth it.

What was the source of Ruth's faith? What made her follow Naomi?

What about yourself? Who is the Naomi in your life? Who is worth the sacrifice?

How can one turn into a leader like Naomi – so that others would be willing to go into great length to follow you?