

Discussion Starter: While most of the world will be focusing on Halloween this Sunday, what other major Christian holiday is also celebrated (*Reformation Day*)? Read the document on Martin Luther's actions at [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reformation\\_Day](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reformation_Day) and share some thoughts.

Prayer (*As part of your prayer time, thank God for Christians from generations past like Luther who allowed the Lord to use them to change the world in ways that still benefit us today.*)

Key Passage: **Ruth 1:1-18**

If you want an overview of the whole story of Ruth to in order to place these verses in their context more easily, read the "Synopsis" section of the article that is found at [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book\\_of\\_Ruth](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Ruth) (*sorry to keep using Wikipedia, but it's definitely short and efficient!*).

Putting yourself in their situation as much as possible, what are the most striking/surprising components of this story?

Translate/modernize the grave social and financial status of Ruth and Naomi into a modern situation so that people living in 2010 in the USA can better understand the sacrifice Ruth made by choosing to stay with Naomi.

Discussion Questions:

Describe a person in your life who has served as your "Naomi" – someone whom you pursue in order to pursue God Himself more faithfully. Why does the Christian walk work better with another person filling this role in your life?

Stop the group time to pray for a few minutes. Ask God to bring someone to mind to serve as your "Naomi." Also, pray for God to show you someone else who needs to have you as his/her "Naomi." If you do not have someone in each of these roles in your life currently, what steps can you take to be purposeful in the coming months to have both of them in place?

Read **1 Corinthians 15:33**. Describe a time in your life when you made a regrettable decision partly because you were influenced by being with the wrong person(s). While you can see your mistake clearly with hindsight, how would you help your child or grandchild realize this truth before making a similar bad choice?

Read **Hebrews 10:24-25**. As a group of believers living life together, how do you "spur one another on toward love and good deeds" (*be concrete and specific*)? If you struggle to come up with real-life, non-generic answers, what can you do this week to begin to live out these verses as a group?