**Strength for Tough Times Series**

**“When the Going Gets Tough”**

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Ruth 1:1-7

In the days when the judges ruled in Israel, a severe famine came upon the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah left his home and went to live in the country of Moab, taking his wife and two sons with him. 2 The man’s name was Elimelech, and his wife was Naomi. Their two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in the land of Judah. And when they reached Moab, they settled there.

3 Then Elimelech died, and Naomi was left with her two sons. 4 The two sons married Moabite women. One married a woman named Orpah, and the other a woman named Ruth. But about ten years later, 5 both Mahlon and Kilion died. This left Naomi alone, without her two sons or her husband.

6 Then Naomi heard in Moab that the Lord had blessed his people in Judah by giving them good crops again. So Naomi and her daughters-in-law got ready to leave Moab to return to her homeland. 7 With her two daughters-in-law she set out from the place where she had been living, and they took the road that would lead them back to Judah.

**WHAT TO DO WHEN TOUGH TIMES COME:**

1. **WHEN TOUGH TIMES COME, ACCEPT THEM AS PART OF LIFE.**

Ruth 1:1a “In the days when the judges ruled in Israel, a severe famine came upon the land.”

I Peter 4:12 Dear friends, don’t be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you.

**THREE KINDS OF TOUGH TIMES**

* **COMMON TOUGH TIMES**
* **CONSEQUENTIAL TOUGH TIMES**
* **CHRISTIAN TOUGH TIMES**

1. **WHEN TOUGH TIMES COME, DON’T MAKE HASTY OR UNWISE DECISIONS.**

Ruth 1:1b So a man from Bethlehem in Judah left his home and went to live in the country of Moab, taking his wife and two sons with him.

1. **WHEN TOUGH TIMES COME, TAKE THE COURAGEOUS ACTION NEEDED.**

Ruth 1:6 Then Naomi heard in Moab that the Lord had blessed his people in Judah by giving them good crops again. So Naomi and her daughters-in-law got ready to leave Moab to return to her homeland.

1. **WHEN TOUGH TIMES COME, TAKE THE ROAD HOME TO GOD’S LOVE.**

Ruth 1:7 With her two daughters-in-law she set out from the place where she had been living, and they took the road that would lead them back to Judah.

Romans 5:3-5 We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. 4 And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. 5 And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.