



**FAMILY: ASSEMBLY REQUIRED**  
**WHEN LIFE GETS HARD, FAMILIES STAY TOGETHER | RUTH 1:1-10**  
**Pastor Mark Owens**

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. <sup>2</sup> The man's name was Elimelek, his wife's name was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to Moab and lived there. <sup>3</sup> Now Elimelek, Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. <sup>4</sup> They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, <sup>5</sup> both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband. <sup>6</sup> When Naomi heard in Moab that the LORD had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them, she and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there. <sup>7</sup> With her two daughters-in-law she left the place where she had been living and set out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah. <sup>8</sup> Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back, each of you, to your mother's home. May the LORD show you kindness, as you have shown kindness to your dead husbands and to me. <sup>9</sup> May the LORD grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband." Then she kissed them goodbye and they wept aloud <sup>10</sup> and said to her, "We will go back with you to your people." - Ruth 1:1-10

**God equips families to face hard challenges.**

**The Reality: Hard challenges will come.**

- Famine
- Difficult Decisions
- Tragedy

**The Response: God invites families to go where He is working.**

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**If we want to change our circumstances, we must seek God's presence.**

**What happens when we miss God's presence?**

**Spiritual dryness:**

- We stop hearing God's voice.
- We grow distant from God.
- We miss our calling and live based on our circumstances.



## Surviving instead of flourishing:

- We become inconsistent.
- We desire comfort.
- We lose hope.

## Misplaced priorities:

- We get entangled in the wrong relationships.
- We lose our reputation.
- We become misguided.

## The Response: God supplies endurance

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- **Endurance positions us to fulfill God's calling:**
  - **Joseph:** "But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison." - Genesis 39:21
- **Endurance shows our trust in God even when life makes no sense:**
  - **Job:** "Though he slay me, I will hope in him; yet I will argue my ways to his face" - Job 13:15
- **Endurance is needed even in the waiting:**
  - **Abraham:** "In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, "So shall your offspring be." <sup>19</sup> He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. <sup>20</sup> No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God" - Romans 4:18-20
- **Endurance is not starting strong; it is ending faithfully:**
  - **Paul:** "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." - 2 Timothy 4:7

## Three family takeaways from today:

- Hardships are inevitable.
- Direction is essential.
- Endurance is crucial.