

1. Trusting God in tough times

- a) What crisis did King Jehoshaphat face during his reign as King of Judah? 2 Chronicles 20:1-2
- b) How did King Jehoshaphat react to this crisis? 2 Chronicles 20:3-12
- c) Even before we read the rest of the story, what lesson can we learn from King Jehoshaphat about managing in tough times?
- d) 2 Chronicles 20:13-22 What encouragement do you find in the account of Judah's deliverance from their enemies?

2. The danger of trusting in our own resources

- a) 1 Chronicles 21:1-7 Why was it displeasing to the LORD when King David decided to number the fighting men in Israel and Judah?
- b) Why would the LORD give King David a choice of three terrible consequences because he chose to depend on his own resources rather than trusting fully in the LORD? (1 Chronicles 21:9-12)
- c) Share some other examples where disaster came when people decided to trust in their own resources in tough times rather than trusting fully in the LORD. (Moses killing the Egyptian, the children of Israel refusing to enter Canaan, etc.)
- d) Share a time when you trusted in your own resources in a tough time. What was the result?

3. Making preparation for tough times ahead

- a) According to the apostle Peter, what important preparation should we make for the tough times ahead? 2 Peter 3:9-13,17-18
- b) Share a time when you moved from one home to another. What criteria did you use to decide what things to take with you and what to leave behind?
- c) What can we learn from the actions of Joseph as he prepared for tough times ahead in Egypt? Genesis 41:46-54
- d) What is the most important preparation we can make for the tough times ahead? Isaiah 55:6-7

4. Staying focused on the LORD during tough times

- a) What can we learn from the following texts about staying focused on the LORD during tough times? Hebrews 12:1-2, Colossians 3:1-4
- b) What was David's testimony about staying focused on the LORD, in good times and bad? Psalm 16:8
- c) What distractions might draw our attention away from staying focused on the LORD? 1 John 2:15-17, Revelation 13:11-17, etc.
- d) How can we stay focused on the LORD and faithful to Him even through the toughest of times?

