

1 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. **RUTH 1:1-5 NLT**

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.

RUTH 1:1-5 NLT

The background of the image is a close-up, slightly blurred view of a wheat field. The stalks are golden-brown, indicating they are ripe. The sky above is a pale, hazy blue, suggesting a soft, overcast day. The overall mood is peaceful and agricultural.

The Opening
Scene of the
book of Ruth

A close-up, textured image of a hand pointing towards the right. The hand is rendered in shades of brown and tan, with visible brushstrokes or graininess. The background is a mottled, earthy brown color.

6 In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes.

JUDGES 17:6 NLT

16 "But be careful. Don't let your heart be deceived so that you turn away from the Lord and serve and worship other gods. 17 If you do, the Lord's anger will burn against you. He will shut up the sky and hold back the rain, and the ground will fail to produce its harvests. Then you will quickly die in that good land the Lord is giving you."

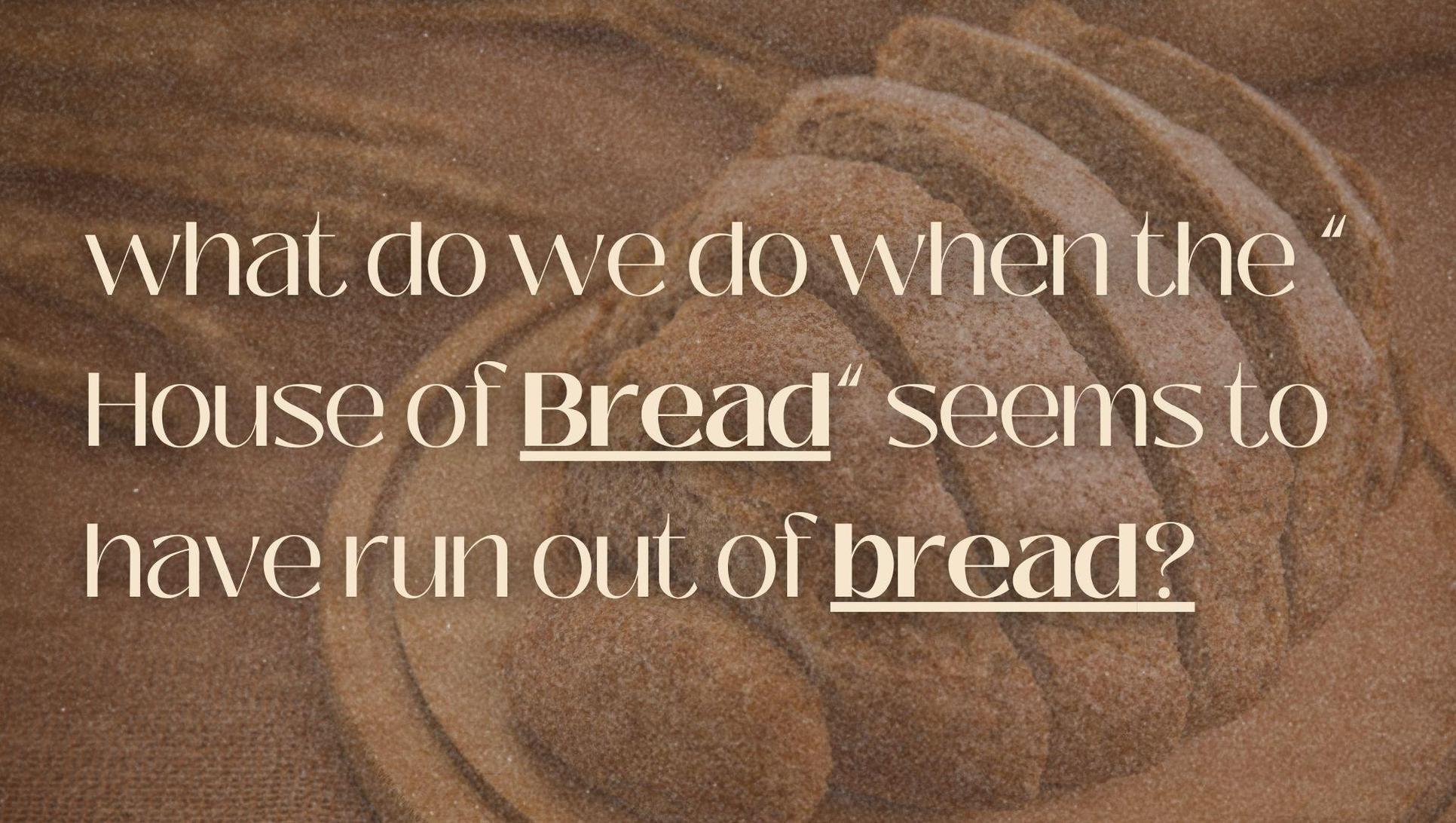
DEUTERONOMY 11:16-17 NLT

1 While the Israelites were camped at Acacia Grove, some of the men defiled themselves by having sexual relations with local Moabite women. 2 These women invited them to attend sacrifices to their gods, so the Israelites feasted with them and worshiped the gods of Moab. 3 In this way, Israel joined in the worship of Baal of Peor, causing the Lord's anger to blaze against his people.

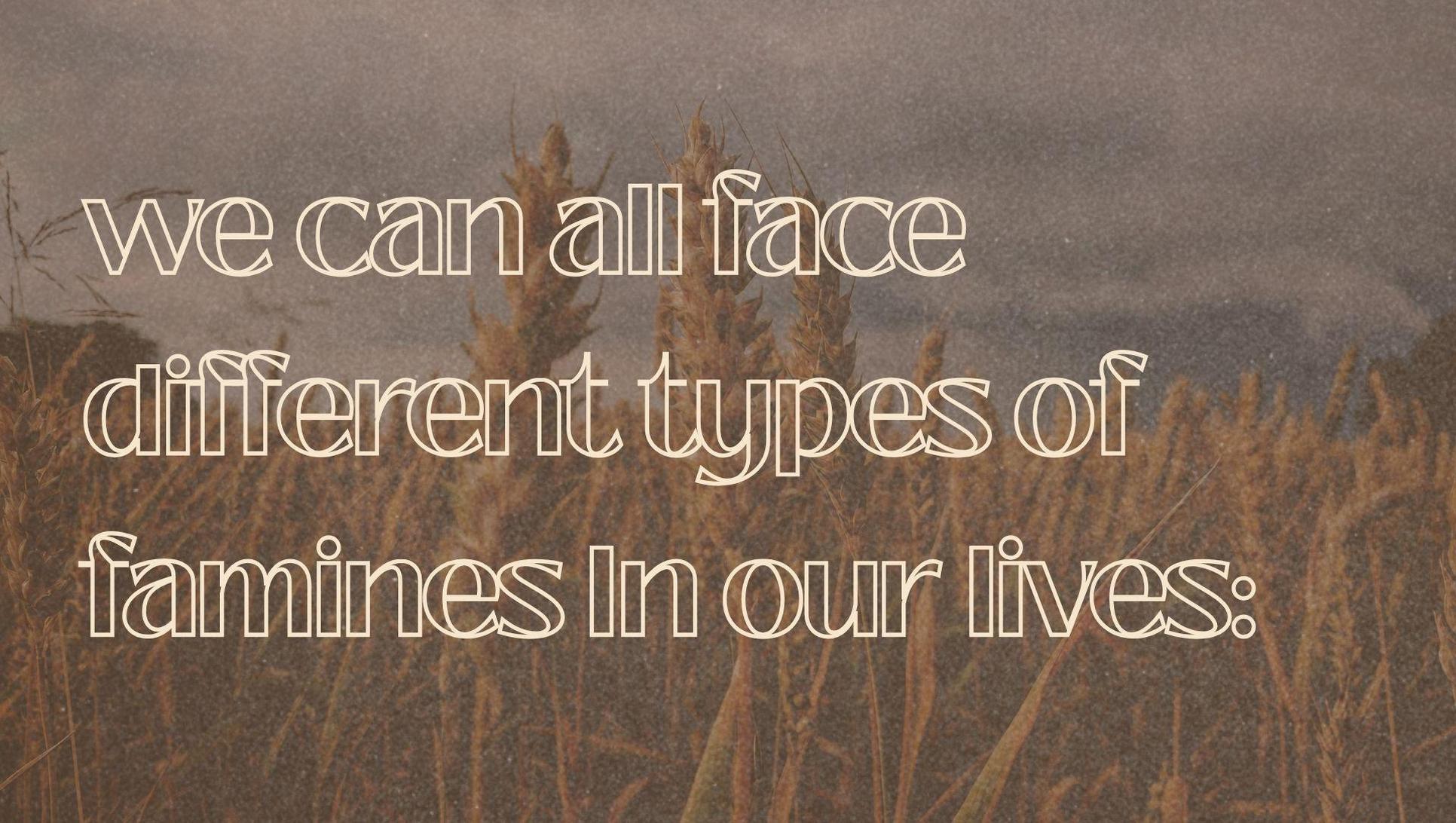
NUMBERS 25:1-3NLT

This was more than a
change of address. It was
leaving the land of God's
promise and seeking
provision and solutions
somewhere else.

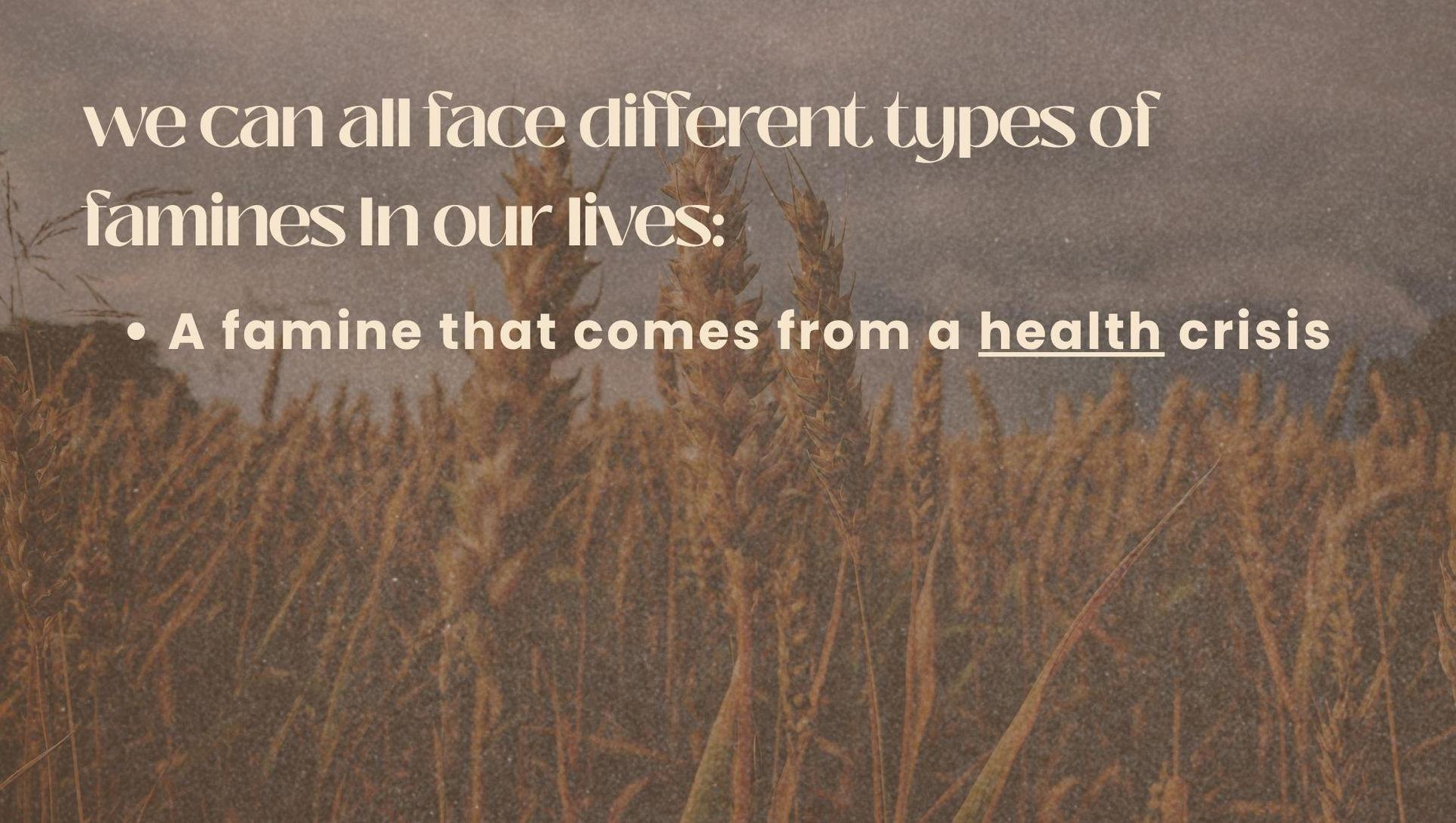


A stack of several round, brown breads, possibly whole wheat or rye, resting on a wooden surface. The breads are stacked in a slightly overlapping manner, creating a sense of depth. The lighting is warm, highlighting the texture of the bread and the wood.

what do we do when the “
House of Bread” seems to
have run out of bread?

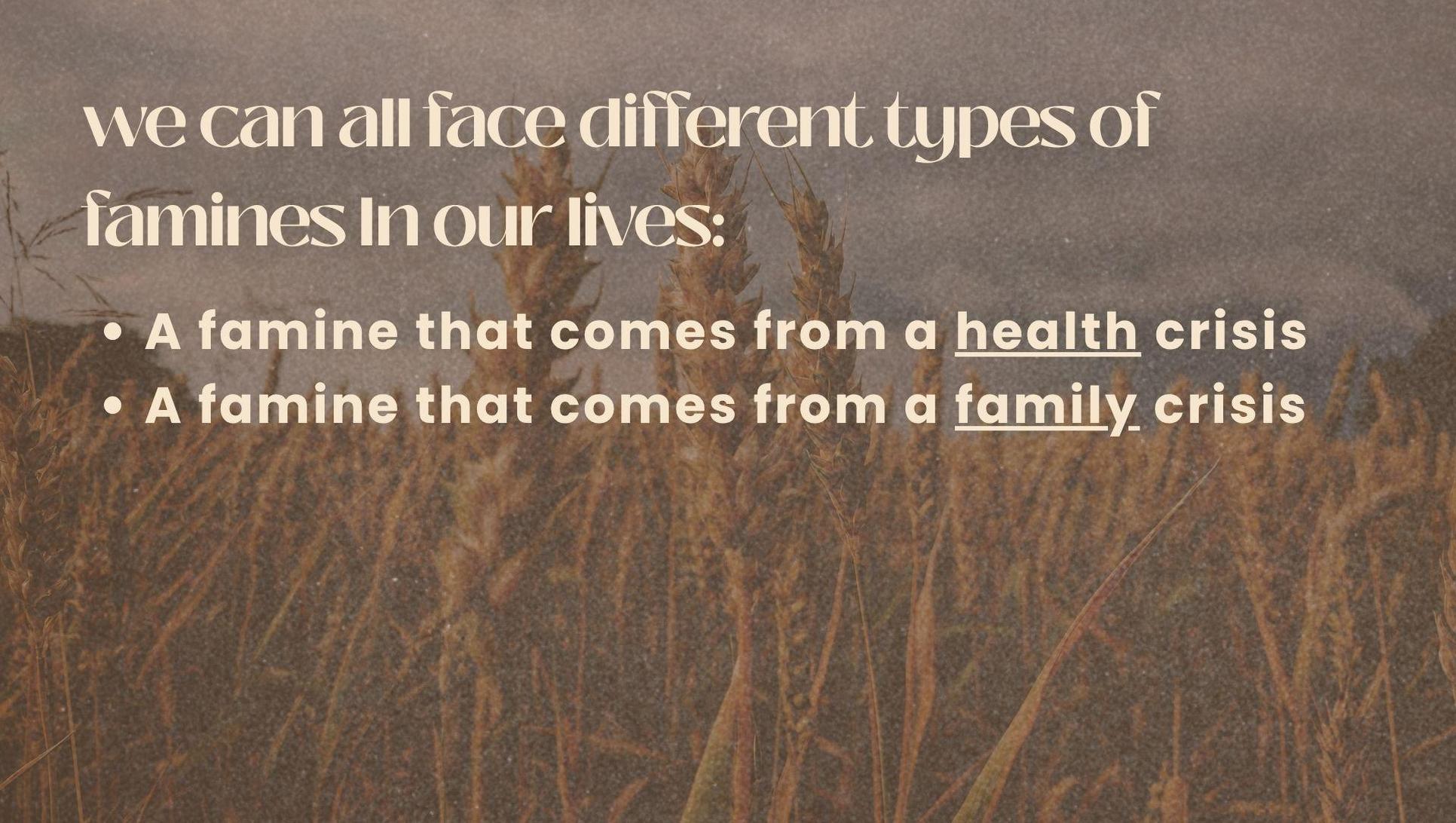
A photograph of a wheat field with golden stalks in the foreground and a dark, overcast sky in the background. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, outlined, serif font.

we can all face
different types of
famines In our lives:

A photograph of a field of golden wheat stalks. The stalks are in the foreground and middle ground, some in sharp focus and others blurred. The background is a dark, overcast sky. The overall tone is somber and contemplative.

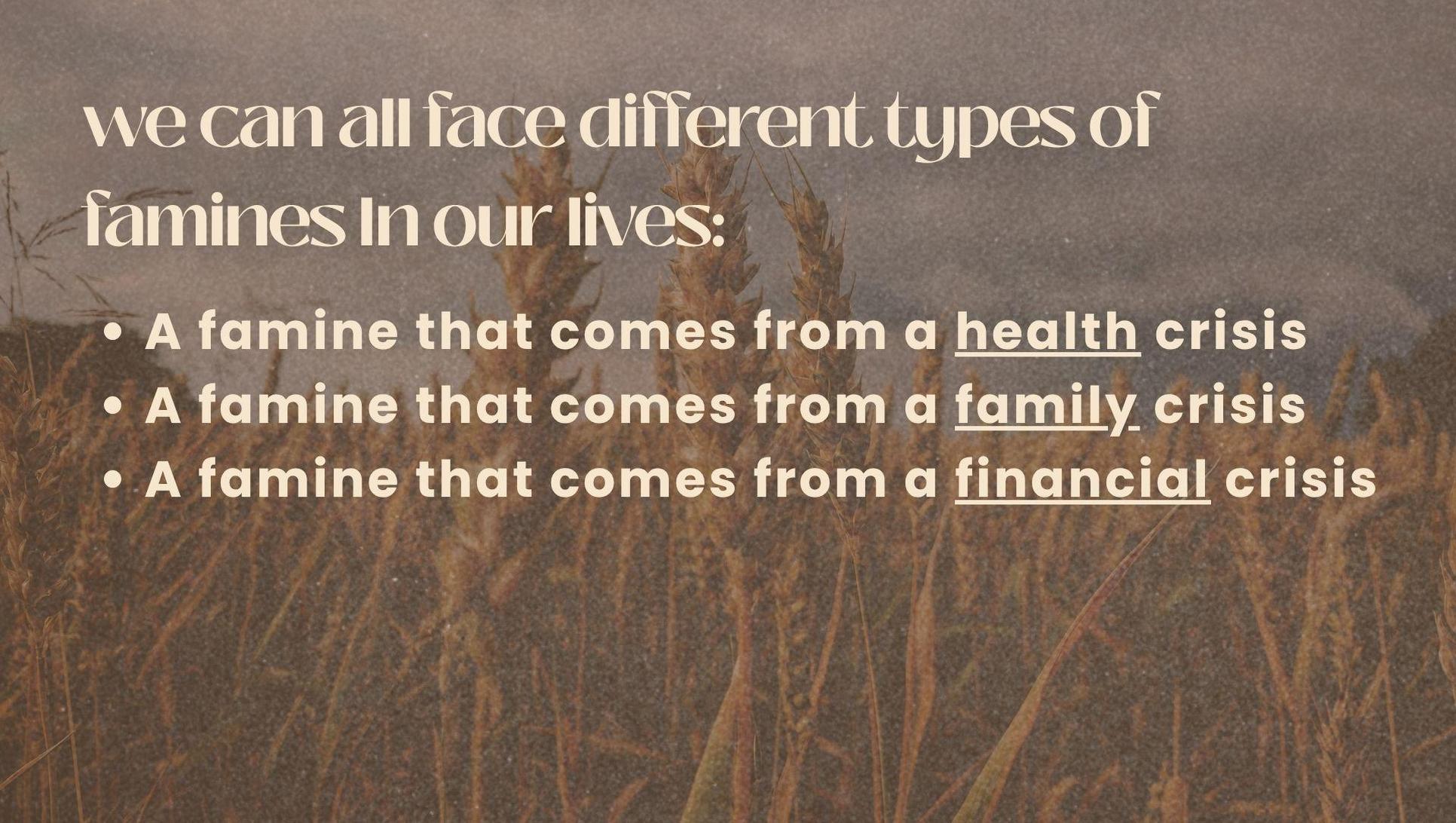
we can all face different types of
famines In our lives:

- A famine that comes from a health crisis

A field of golden wheat stalks under a dark, overcast sky. The wheat is in the foreground, and the sky is a deep, dark grey. The text is overlaid on the image.

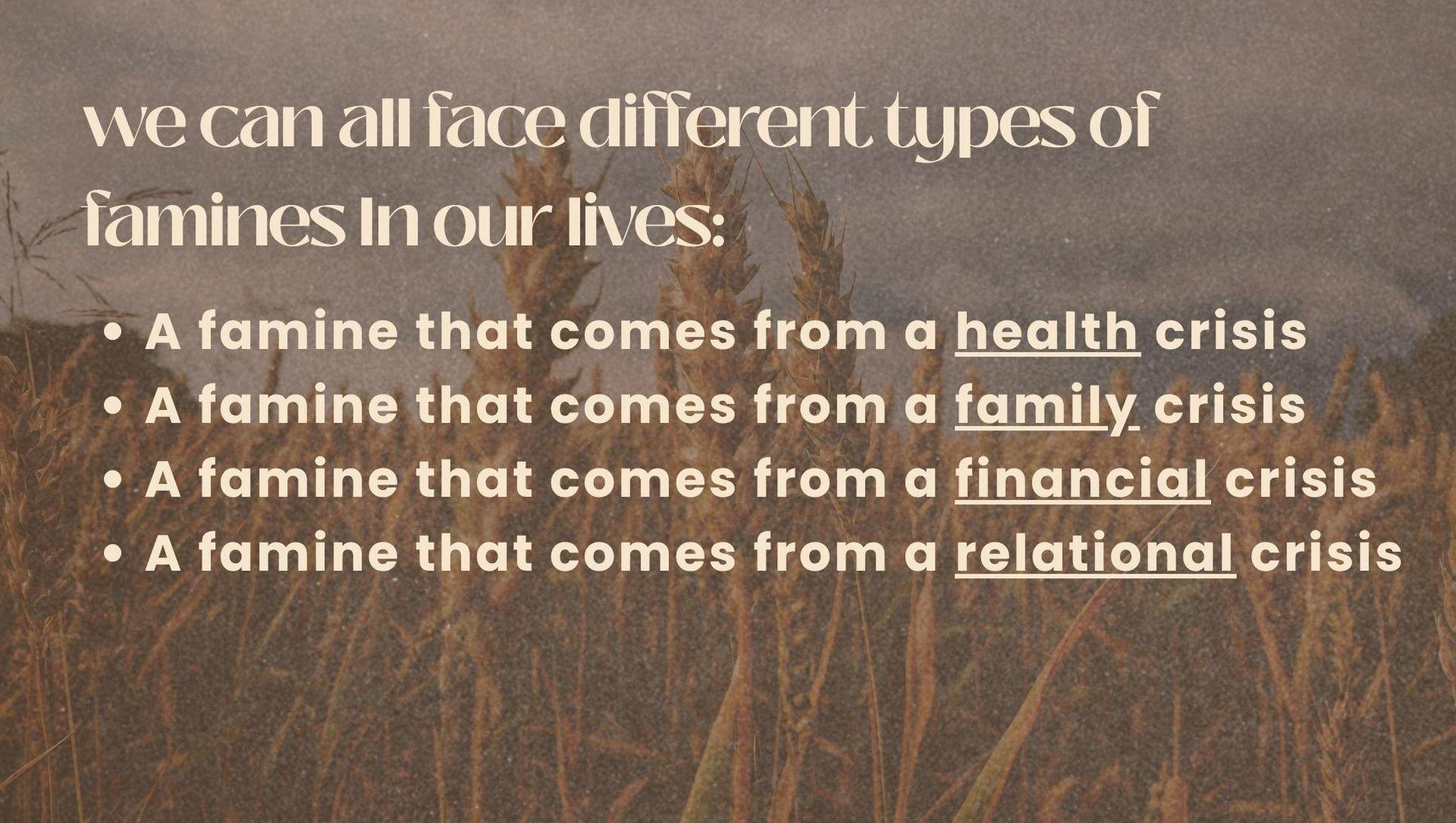
**we can all face different types of
famines In our lives:**

- **A famine that comes from a health crisis**
- **A famine that comes from a family crisis**

A field of golden wheat stalks under a soft, hazy sky. The wheat is in the foreground, slightly out of focus, with several stalks reaching upwards. The background is a vast field of similar wheat, stretching towards a horizon under a pale, overcast sky. The overall mood is serene and natural.

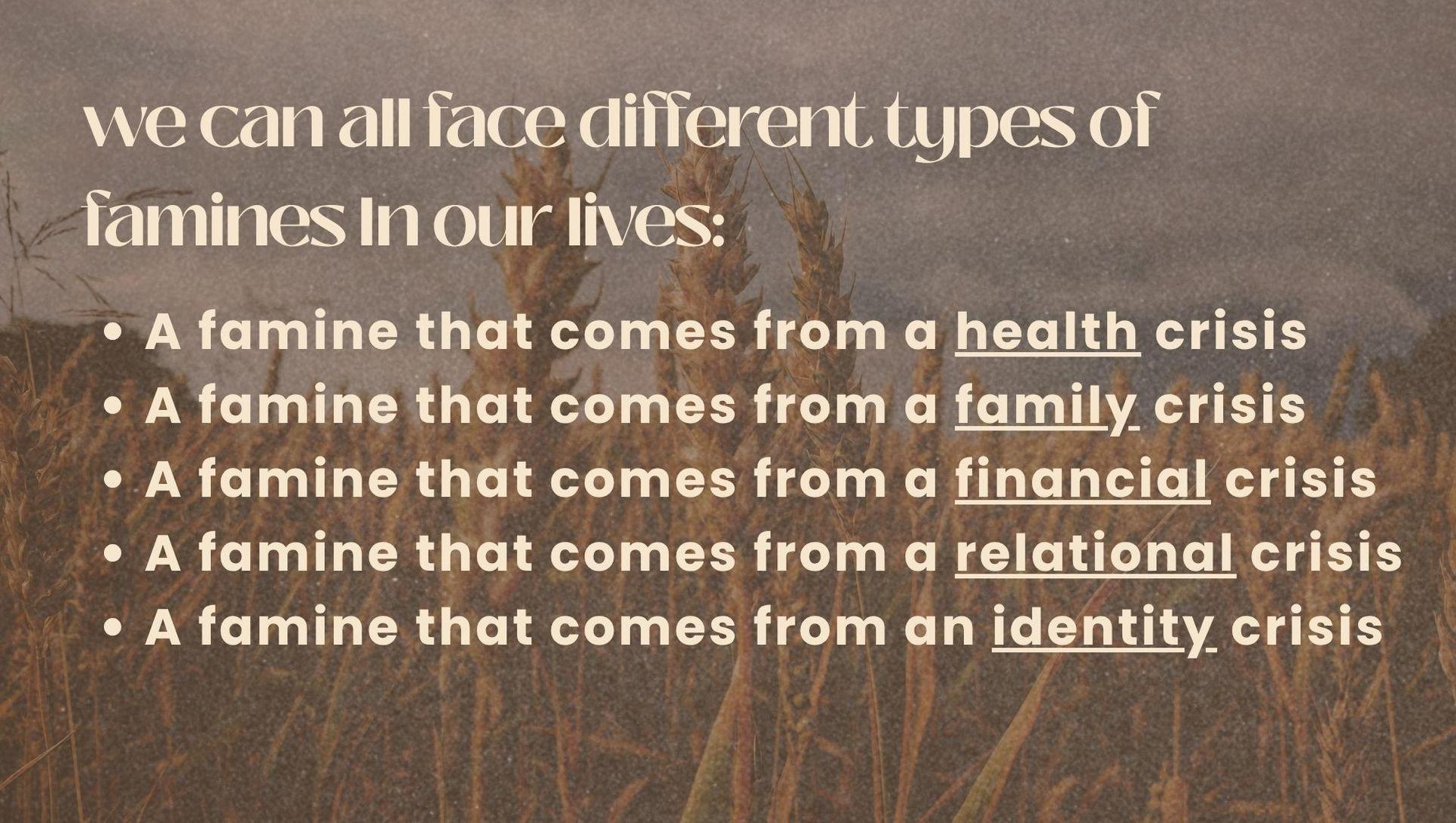
**we can all face different types of
famines In our lives:**

- **A famine that comes from a health crisis**
- **A famine that comes from a family crisis**
- **A famine that comes from a financial crisis**



**we can all face different types of
famines In our lives:**

- **A famine that comes from a health crisis**
- **A famine that comes from a family crisis**
- **A famine that comes from a financial crisis**
- **A famine that comes from a relational crisis**

A field of golden wheat stalks under a soft, hazy sky. The text is overlaid on the image.

we can all face different types of famines In our lives:

- A famine that comes from a health crisis
- A famine that comes from a family crisis
- A famine that comes from a financial crisis
- A famine that comes from a relational crisis
- A famine that comes from an identity crisis

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a large quantity of small, light-colored grains or seeds. The hand is positioned in the lower right, with the palm facing up. The grains are piled in the center of the hand. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly a wooden table or a similar material. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the hand and the individual grains.

In the silence of the struggle, in
the heat of the trial we are
tempted to take matters
into our own hands.

The absence of bread
in the moment does
not mean the absence
of God in the story



3 “If only the Lord had killed us back in Egypt,”
they moaned. “There we sat around pots filled
with meat and ate all the bread we wanted. But
now you have brought us into this wilderness to
starve us all to death.”

EXODUS 16:3 NLT

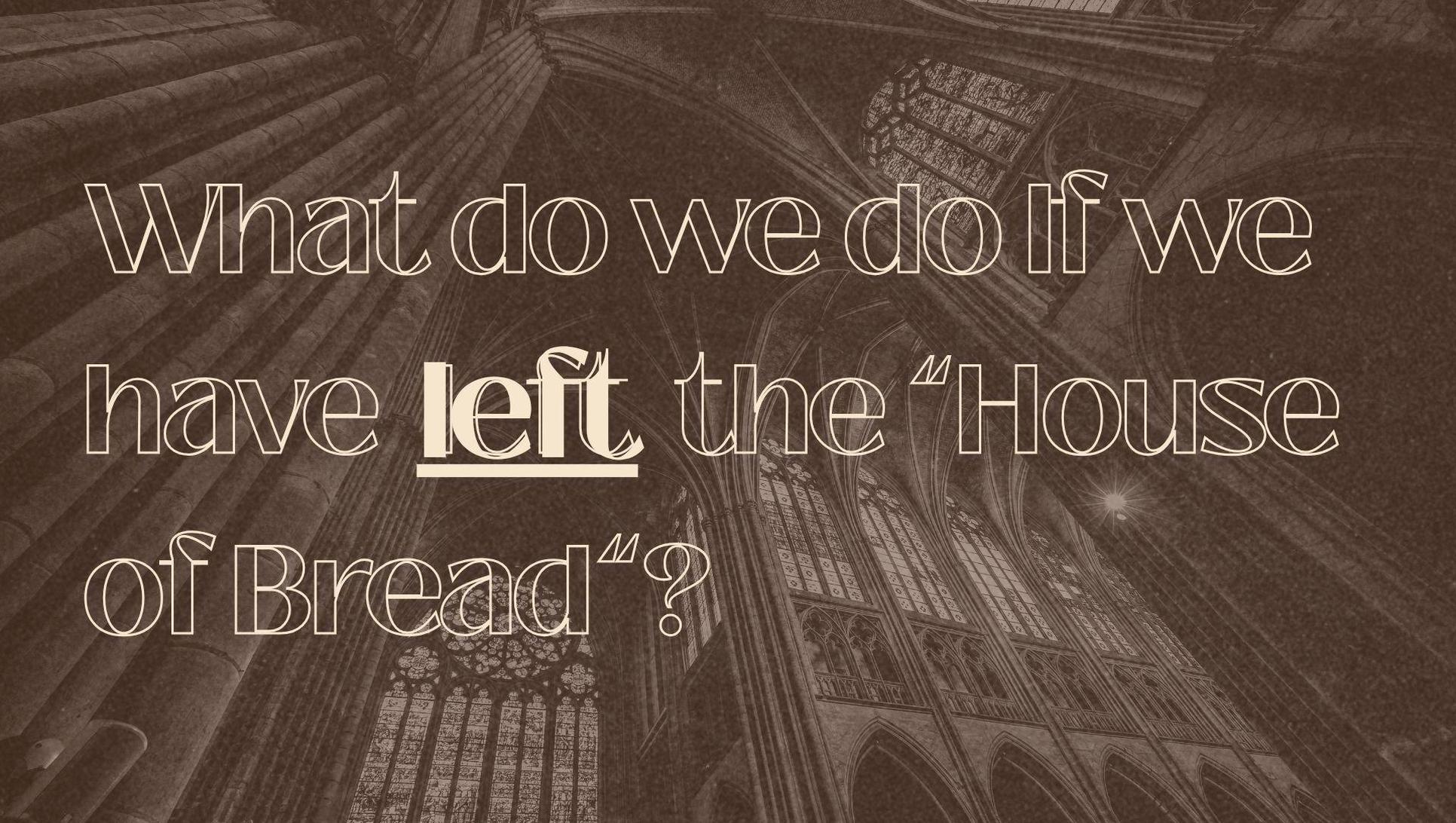
24 He rained down manna for them to eat;
he gave them bread from heaven.

25 They ate the food of angels!
God gave them all they could hold.

PSALM 78:24-25 NLT

41 Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them. Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, he kept giving the bread to the disciples so they could distribute it to the people. He also divided the fish for everyone to share. 42 They all ate as much as they wanted, 43 and afterward, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftover bread and fish. 44 A total of 5,000 men and their families were fed.

MARK 6:41-44 NLT

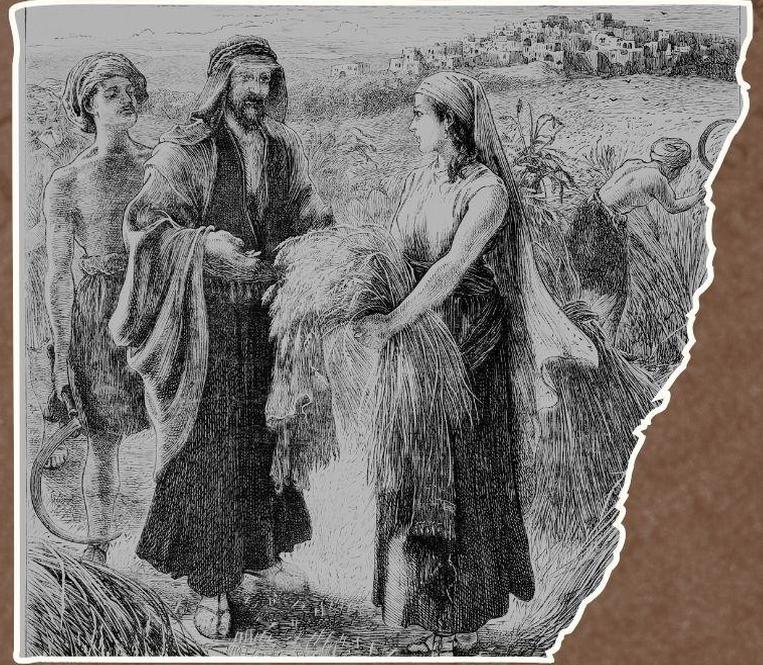


What do we do if we
have left the “House
of Bread”?

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.

RUTH 1:6NLT

The story begins with
famine, loss, and
hopelessness, but God is
already preparing a path
through a young Moabite
woman named Ruth.



32 Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, Moses didn't give you bread from heaven. My Father did. And now he offers you the true bread from heaven.

33 The true bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

35 Jesus replied, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again.

Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

John 6:32-33, 35

A pair of hands is clasped in prayer, resting on an open book. The book is placed on a wooden surface. The text is overlaid on the image in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The words "MISTAKES" and "BEAUTIFUL" are underlined.

**AN AMAZING ASPECT OF
GOD'S GRACE IS THAT GOD
DOESN'T JUST REDEEM OUR
MISTAKES, HE TURNS THEM
INTO SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL.**