Could Your Family Get Through a Winter of Rising Prices?

A shared journey for children and adults – there is no single "right" family answer.

Imagine: Scharfenstein, around 1771

You live with your family in the Ore Mountains. The weather has damaged the fields. Grain is scarce and bread keeps getting more expensive. There is no supermarket, no fridge full of supplies and no quick delivery from the internet. What would you do?

1 · What really matters?

You may choose only five things to help your family through a difficult week. Decide together and explain your choices.

- bread or grain
- clean water
- firewood
- warm clothing
- tools
- money
- an animal that provides food
- good neighbours
- medicine / healing knowledge
- toys

2 · When bread suddenly becomes much more expensive

For January 1770, Pietzonka gives an average daily wage of 4 groschen. A 7-pound loaf cost 26 pfennigs. During the crisis, bread prices rose sharply. Do not convert these figures into modern money. Instead ask: What happens to a family when a staple food consumes more and more of its earnings?

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3 · Share or keep?

You still have some flour. Next door lives a family whose supplies are almost gone. You do not know when you will be able to get more grain. What would you do – and why?

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4 · Stay or leave?

During the hunger years, people left their homes. Imagine your family has to decide: stay even though food and work are scarce – or leave without knowing what awaits you elsewhere. What reasons are there on each side?

STAY
Family, home, familiar paths, house and neighbours – but continuing hardship.

LEAVE
Hope of food and work – but uncertainty, unfamiliar places and perhaps separation from people you love.

At the end

Which decision was hardest for you? That is at the heart of Volume 02: hardship can turn simple questions into difficult choices.

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