

May 14, 2023
Pastor David Uth
Mother's Day
1 Kings 17:1-24

Text: 1 Kings 17:1-24

Sermon Notes

Instructions:

This discussion guide serves as a conversation starter for your small group. Every week we will feature an icebreaker question in the **Belong** section as well as give you a recap from the week before. Your main discussion will be centered around the **Believe** section where you will read the key passage and answer suggested questions based on the sermon. Feel free to use some or all of these questions or add your own. Finally, in the **Become** section we will give you a couple of ways to practically apply what we have learned together.

Belong:

Ice Breaker Question: What is a recipe/dish your mom, grandma, or aunt makes at every family gathering that you look forward to eating?

Recap: Last we heard from guest speaker Matt Heard on the “Zoe” life that Jesus offers every believer. Matt reminded us that Jesus said, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” John 10:10 (NIV). This week Pastor David is teaching on the story from 1 Kings 17 of the prophet Elijah and The Widow of Zarephath. We will be back in 1 Corinthians 6 next Sunday!

Believe: (Big Idea/Main Discussion)

Read 1 Kings 17:1-7 - This is the backstory to our sermon text today. What is happening in Israel and the surrounding area? ?

Who has been displaced because of what is happening?

What do you notice about Elijah?

Has God ever provided for your needs in an unusual way?

What did you learn during that time about God?

Read 1 Kings 17:8-10 - God sends Elijah even farther away to ZAREPHATH. What has God promised Elijah?

What do Elijah and the widow have in common?

Have you ever had a “chance” meeting with someone that later you saw as a divine appointment?

What happened in the moment and what was the long-term impact for both of you?

Cross Reference: 1 Corinthians 1:27 - in Elijah’s day this widow would have been considered “weak” or another word we would use would be vulnerable. Why do you think God chose her?

Read 1 Kings 17:11-12 - The widow immediately responds to Elijah’s request for water. But as she is going, what else does he ask of her?

How does his 2nd request strike you?

What is her response?

How would you describe her situation?

How do you think she would describe her situation?

Read 1 Kings 17:13-14 - What does Elijah speak to first?

Do you think her fear is warranted?

In the middle of her fear, Elijah asks her to demonstrate faith by doing what first?

How would you answer this question: “What kind of God asks a widow for her last loaf of bread?”

What is God really asking her?

Has God asked you a similar question lately?

How did you respond?

Read 1 Kings 17:15-16 -

What does she do?

Cross Reference: Hebrews 11:1, 6 - How would you define faith?

Do you think you would have been able to act in the same way she did?

Do you think it is harder to trust God with outcomes when other people are involved?
What about when the other people involved are ones you love?

What did God do?

Why do you think God didn't give her a massive amount of oil and flour all at once?

Consider this again: God chose a foreign widow to feed Elijah. How does this demonstrate his heart?

Cross Reference: John 3:16, Luke 4:24-26, Matthew 15:21-28

God could have simply met her need. But what do you think God was really after in this story?

Read 1 Kings 17:17-24 - You might think that this woman has suffered plenty. But this final part of her story is even harder. What happens?

Do you believe the saying, "God doesn't give us more than we can handle?" Why or why not?

In the end, what does this woman believe?

What is one characteristic of God that you see embedded in this story that you want to remember?

Become:

When you are in the middle of a hard situation it isn't enough to simply know God's Word, you have to apply it. What does that look like in your everyday life?

Start a list with dates of how God has been faithful to you. Keep it in your Bible or in a place you will see it consistently. Let your kids or your friends add to the list as well. See how long it takes to get to 100, 300, 500, and 1,000 things.

When you don't know the next 10 steps to do in a given situation, do the next thing God tells you to do. Just be faithful in that one thing. If God hasn't told you to do something new, keep doing the last thing you know He told you to do. Just like the widow—get up, gather sticks, and be prepared to make bread—trust that God will make a way.

What is the next right thing for you to do this week? Keep it simple, actionable, and ask someone in your group to pray for you and keep you accountable to following through.

Prayer: Lord, I believe you are faithful. Sometimes when I look around at my circumstances it is hard to keep believing. In those moments, remind me of who you are, what you have done in the past, and help me to keep believing no matter what.