

Elijah/Elisha – Standing Alone

Week 11 – The Widow

Transition: Last week we looked at a peculiar passage that tells the story of when Israel (the northern kingdom), Judah (the southern kingdom), Edom, and Moab all went to war. Since all four of these nations are relatives of Abraham (and consider Abraham to be their “father”), in a sense, it is a family squabble. If you want to know more about the Edomites, click [here](https://www.gotquestions.org/Edomites.html).^{*} If you want to know more about the Moabites, click [here](https://www.gotquestions.org/Moabites.html).^{**}

Context: This week our biblical passage focuses on a widow in trouble and how God, through His prophet Elisha, takes care of her and her family.

Opening Questions:

- Think of a time when you were in dire need. What was the situation? What did you do? How did it turn out?
- People often jump to false/insupportable conclusions when reading the Bible. What do you do to keep from doing this yourself?

Scripture/Storying: 2 Kings 4:1-7

Discipleship Questions:

- What is your overall reaction to this passage? What impression does it make on you and why?
- How do you hear the widow in her plea to Elisha (v1)? What is her attitude? Why does she think Elisha should hear her and get involved?
- God’s word does not specifically say how this widow got into her predicament. Why do you think God left it out? (This is a place where people draw conclusions that cannot be proven.)
- How do you describe Elisha’s immediate response (v2)?
- God used what this widow considered to be nothing to bring her life and hope. What are some situations from your life when He has done the same for you?
- Elisha directs the widow to fill the jars with oil with her door shut. Why do you think God wants those to whom He reveals Himself to keep it a secret sometimes? (Jesus taught on secrecy in Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18; and He often directed people whom He healed/revealed Himself to not to tell anyone. e.g. Mark 1:40-45, 7:31-37, 8:27-30.)
- Why should we be careful about concluding that the oil represents the Holy Spirit or that the widow should have sought more jars for the oil so that she would have even more?
- In what ways does this story lead you to the gospel? (...that Jesus came to rescue us from death and give us life.)
- What is the Holy Spirit teaching you through this story? How does it impact the way you think and live?

Prayer time: This week we are praying for the student ministry here at Providence.

- Pray for all students starting back at school & for the beginning of a new school year at Prov Students. May the Lord use Prov Students and their student leaders to glorify Him through making disciples that make disciples.

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