

Elijah/Elisha – Standing Alone

Week 2 – The Widow

Transition: Last week we began our study on the lives and ministries of the northern kingdom prophets, Elijah and Elisha. Elijah's first recorded prophecy was to let the wicked king, Ahab, know that God was not pleased with his leading Israel (His people) into Baal worship. Consequently, the nation experienced a great famine (at Elijah's inspired word). God then hid Elijah in the wilderness and provided for his needs.

Context: This week, as the famine in the land intensifies, God sends Elijah to a neighboring foreign land (that worships Baal and not Yahweh) to have a widow take care of him. Many years later, Jesus mentions this story when He's preaching about Himself and His ministry to people from His hometown synagogue one Sabbath. (Luke 4:16-30)

Opening Questions:

- When has your faith been severely tested? Share the story including what you did and how it turned out.
- When have you been truly desperate for God? Share the story. What did you learn from it?

Scripture/Storying: 1 Kings 17:7-24

Discipleship Questions:

- Why do you think the LORD sent Elijah to Zarephath? Why do you think the LORD sent Elijah to a widow? What does this reveal about God to you? When has God sent someone to you? Share the story and what you learned.
- The LORD sends Elijah to the widow so that she will take care of him (v19b) and not so that he can take care of her. What's your reaction to this? How is this episode similar to the time when Jesus asks for water from a Samaritan woman at Jacob's well (John 4)? What do you learn about God from this?
- Describe the widow's journey of faith in this passage. What do you learn from her? How can you apply it?
- Why do you think the LORD allows the widow's son to die? Why does God allow the ones He loves to go through painful/devastating times?
- What do you make of the widow's statement that her son's death was caused by her own sin being remembered against her? Do you think she's correct? Either way (yes or no), explain your belief.
- In what ways is Elijah's faith in the LORD evident? In what ways is God leading you to be like Elijah and live by faith? Has God ever sent you to deliver a message to someone? If so, share the story including how it went.
- 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 Bridge Refugee, a ministry Providence supports.

- Pray that the Lord will provide the right person to fill their need for an Executive Director.
- Pray for the arrival of 22 new individuals as Bridge prepares to welcome them to Knoxville this month.
- Pray for their families, safe travel, adjustment to Knoxville, and that the church will embrace them into the family when they arrive.
- Pray for the Bridge staff as they prepare to welcome, serve, and provide for around 140 more refugees this fiscal year.