

PRAYER

- Believe that as we give from what we have, God will multiply and use it for His glory.

- Ask God to give us the grace to excel in giving.

- Pray for those you know are going through tough times and are in need of a breakthrough.

The Flour and the Oil
Week 2

NOTES

CONNECT

- When you were young, who do you run to when you're short on cash? Why?
- Have you ever been in a difficult situation and felt helpless? How were you able to get through it?
- What is your worst financial fear?



WORD

“For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the Lord gives rain on the land.’”

1 Kings 17: 14

WHAT

What does the Bible say?

The Widow of Zarepath was down to her last drop of oil and measure of flour during that time of famine, but God chose her to provide temporarily for Elijah instead of sending him to those who were more able. In the end, she received a lifetime provision for her and her family. What does this story teach us?

- **God sets us up for His purpose.**

“Go at once to Zarephath of Sidon and stay there. I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you with food.”

1 Kings 17:9

The widow in the middle of “enemy territory” was in dire straits and was at the end of her rope. Yet God asked her to give and extend help to Elijah. In doing this, God went against the norm and set her up for a life-changing power encounter! When was the last time you were called to do something you didn’t fully understand but you were glad you obeyed anyway? What happened?

- **God sets us up for obedience in faith.**

¹³Elijah said to her, “Don’t be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small cake of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. ¹⁴For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD gives rain on the land.’”

1 Kings 17:13,14

Both Elijah and the widow responded in faith and obedience in this situation—Elijah obeyed God and asked the widow for provision

despite knowing her situation and capacity while the widow believed the promise Elijah told her and provided for him. This step of faith by both people was able to make them experience God’s miraculous provision. Why should our faith be paired with action (James 2:18-24)?

- **God sets us up for His provision.**

She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family.

1 Kings 17:15

Before God sent Elijah to the widow to ask for provision, He already knew what was going to happen. His plan was already set—God has always been prepared. Why don’t we have a reason to doubt or be afraid when we know that God is in control over our situations?

SO WHAT

What is the relevance of the Word to my life?

- Who do you look to for provision? What is God’s promise to you (Philippians 4:19)?
- With God using the widow to provide for Elijah, what does this tell us (1 Corinthians 1:27)? How much do you believe that God can use you to be a blessing at this time? In what ways?
- From the story, what is the significance of the widow’s ability? What should be our posture when we give (2 Corinthians 8:12)?

NOW WHAT

How do I apply the Word to my life?

- In the area of giving and believing God for provision, what mindsets do you think you have that need to change? What truths from the Bible can change these?
- How do you think God wants you to be a blessing at this time? Who are the people you can help?
- Who can you encourage this week about their situations that God will never leave them or forsake them?