

1 Kings 17:17-24

January 15, 2023



INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

When has a situation given you anxiety (a test in Algebra, a coach who was on your case, girl/guy problems, a medical situation, etc.)?

Who do you turn to for help when you feel like you have no control over a situation? Why?

Are you someone other people can turn to for help when they have needs? Why or why not?

We all have needs, and we can be sure that God promises to provide for us in those needs. God often meets our needs through each other. You don't have to be an adult for that to be true. Your faith makes you part of a bigger family, and God calls all of us to minister to one another in times of need.

DISCUSSION

🌿 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ 1 KINGS 17:17-24.

Have you ever seen God do something incredible in someone's life? Was everything great for that person from that point forward, or have they faced other struggles since then? Why does that happen?

How have the ups and downs of your own life affected your faith?

The widow thought this happened because of her sin. Have you ever felt that way? Why is it important to remember suffering is not only caused because of our own sin?

How was Elijah's faith tested? What can we learn from Elijah's response?

What did the widow learn as God worked through Elijah?

What did Elijah do to bring about this miracle in the son's life? Why do you think God didn't just heal the boy without Elijah's help?

Think back to the introductory questions. What does this story in 1 Kings 17 teach you about how God wants us to relate to each other?

Has another person's help in your life ever served to deepen your faith? How might your help in another person's life serve as a witness? What are some ordinary ways we can show grace to each other in this group when we experiencing moments of crisis?

APPLICATION

Do you see it as your responsibility to walk with and pray for hurting people at FBC Summit? Why should you make it your responsibility?

How well do we minister to one another in this group? What is one way we can do this better?

PRAYER

Thank God for calling us to step out in faith as we trust His ability to provide for our needs and provide for the needs of others through us. Ask Him to help you remain obedient to Him in times of testing, so that your faith and generosity will reveal His power in your lives.

LOOKING AHEAD

Encourage your group to look ahead to next week's scripture passage as we continue our study of the life of Elijah.

January 22, 2023 --- 1 Kings 18:16-40

COMMENTARY

Elijah's training was not finished. In the mysterious providence of God, the widow's son became ill and died. The heartbroken mother lashed out in grief at Elijah, complaining that the presence of the prophet, the man of God, had directed God's attention to her family, reminded God of her sin, and drawn divine retribution. This was the language both of grief and of pagan concepts of God, but Elijah was in no mood to defend God. He was also perplexed with this

turn of events. Why would God allow this to happen to the woman who had spared him from death?

The prophet took the boy from his mother, carried him into his special room, and poured out his confusion to the Lord. But Elijah had also learned by now that there was no realm in which the Lord was not present with power. He stretched himself over the boy three times and then prayed as no one in previous biblical history had prayed: O Lord ... let this boy's life return to him!

What followed was the first recorded restoration to life in the Bible. The writer of 1 Kings is careful to attribute the miracle not to Elijah but to God: The Lord heard Elijah's cry, and the boy's life returned to him. In the heart of Baal territory, God had displayed his incomparable power. In the Baal myths, Baal was subject to the laws of nature; he died each year during the dry season. But God is not subject to death; he is Lord over it.

In the widow's eyes the miracle proved that Elijah was God's true prophet. It also served to authenticate the message that he gave as the true word of the Lord: the word of the Lord from your mouth is the truth. We are not told the effect of the miracle upon Elijah, but it must have given him an even deeper sense of confidence in God as the Lord of life and death, a confidence born in the midst of enemy territory. His courage to stand alone for God was born in these profound experiences of the glory and greatness of the Lord. He was now ready for the next step