



### **So Worth It A Poor Widow's Risky Gift**

When Elijah asked a destitute widow on the brink of starvation to feed him before feeding herself and her son, she didn't resist. She didn't get angry. She leaned in and obeyed. She risked it all. The result? God provided. At what point does the price of obedience become too high? That all depends on how much faith you have and in whom you place it.

Then the Lord said to Elijah, <sup>9</sup> "Go and live in the village of Zarephath, near the city of Sidon. I have instructed a widow there to feed you."

<sup>10</sup> So he went to Zarephath. As he arrived at the gates of the village, he saw a widow gathering sticks, and he asked her, "Would you please bring me a little water in a cup?" <sup>11</sup> As she was going to get it, he called to her, "Bring me a bite of bread, too."

<sup>12</sup> But she said, "I swear by the Lord your God that I don't have a single piece of bread in the house. And I have only a handful of flour left in the jar and a little cooking oil in the bottom of the jug. I was just gathering a few sticks to cook this last meal, and then my son and I will die."

<sup>13</sup> But Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid! Go ahead and do just what you've said, but make a little bread for me first. Then use what's left to prepare a meal for yourself and your son. <sup>14</sup> For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: There will always be flour and olive oil left in your containers until the time when the Lord sends rain and the crops grow again!"

1 Kings 17:8-14

So she did as Elijah said, and she and Elijah and her family continued to eat for many days. <sup>16</sup> There was always enough flour and olive oil left in the containers, just as the Lord had promised through Elijah.

<sup>17</sup> Some time later the woman's son became sick. He grew worse and worse, and finally he died. <sup>18</sup> Then she said to Elijah, "O man of God, what have you done to me? Have you come here to point out my sins and kill my son?"

<sup>19</sup> But Elijah replied, "Give me your son." And he took the child's body from her arms, carried him up the stairs to the room where he was staying, and laid the body on his bed. <sup>20</sup> Then Elijah cried out to

the Lord, "O Lord my God, why have you brought tragedy to this widow who has opened her home to me, causing her son to die?"

<sup>21</sup> And he stretched himself out over the child three times and cried out to the Lord, "O Lord my God, please let this child's life return to him." <sup>22</sup> The Lord heard Elijah's prayer, and the life of the child returned, and he revived! <sup>23</sup> Then Elijah brought him down from the upper room and gave him to his mother. "Look!" he said. "Your son is alive!"

<sup>24</sup> Then the woman told Elijah, "Now I know for sure that you are a man of God, and that the Lord truly speaks through you."

1 Kings 17:15-24

#### Icebreaker and Intro Questions:

1. Eddie shared examples of some things in life that simply aren't worth it. What is something you have found in your life that is not worth it? (Maybe a purchase you've made, a DIY project you've attempted, etc.)
2. Now share: what is something in your life that you would advise others IS worth it?
3. What resonated with you from Sunday's service? (Sermon, scripture, song, etc.)

#### Discussion Questions

4. Read 1 Kings 17:8-14 together as a group. Take a second and put yourself in the widow's shoes. What would have been challenging about Elijah's request to her?
5. Eddie asked us all this question, "Is there a price of obedience to God that is too high?" What about this story and this question challenges you?
6. Read 1 Kings 17:15-24 together as a group. How does this passage encourage you? Have you ever had an experience where God came through for you?
7. Eddie shared that life will always require a new level of faith from you. How does this comfort you and how does this challenge you?

#### This week:

- **21 Days of Compassion** – [www.wschurch.org/21Days](http://www.wschurch.org/21Days)  
For 21 days (May 16-June 5) we'll focus our efforts on unleashing radical compassion in our neighborhoods and communities. We'll serve our neighbors, care for the sick, open our homes, beautify our streets, pray for unity and look for everyday ways to love and encourage EVERYONE. We'll also link arms with our tremendous local and global mission partners who specialize in bringing help and hope to the specific needs of those they serve.  
**Our goal is to unleash 3000 acts of compassion in 21 days, which will take each of us living on mission every day. Be sure to log each act of compassion and watch our collective impact grow!**
- **Prayer for UNITY** -  
Our country has endured a difficult season full of fear, isolation and polarization. Jesus invites us to be anchored in his love and to join him in bringing peace to our community. Find the prayer guide at [www.wschurch.org/pray](http://www.wschurch.org/pray) and join us in praying for our community, our region, and our world.

#### Notes: