

ELIJAH

Group Guide

ordinary people; extraordinary power

1 Kings 17:7-24

⁷ Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. ⁸ Then the word of the LORD came to him: ⁹ "Go at once to Zarephath in the region of Sidon and stay there. I have directed a widow there to supply you with food." ¹⁰ So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, "Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?" ¹¹ As she was going to get it, he called, "And bring me, please, a piece of bread."

¹² "As surely as the LORD your God lives," she replied, "I don't have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die."

¹³ Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. ¹⁴ 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 sends rain on the land.'"

¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the LORD spoken by Elijah.

¹⁷ Some time later the son of the woman who owned the house became ill. He grew worse and worse, and finally stopped breathing. ¹⁸ She said to Elijah, "What do you have against me, man of God? Did you come to remind me of my sin and kill my son?"

¹⁹ "Give me your son," Elijah replied. He took him from her arms, carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his bed. ²⁰ Then he cried out to the LORD, "LORD my God, have you brought tragedy even on this widow I am staying with, by causing her son to die?" ²¹ Then he stretched himself out on the boy three times and cried out to the LORD, "LORD my God, let this boy's life return to him!"

²² The LORD heard Elijah's cry, and the boy's life returned to him, and he lived. ²³ Elijah picked up the child and carried him down from the room into the house. He gave him to his mother and said, "Look, your son is alive!"

²⁴ Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the LORD from your mouth is the truth."

THE WILDERNESS IS NEVER WASTED // April 21, 2024

1. If you could have lunch with two people from the Bible and/or history other than Jesus, who would it be? Share why.
2. Read 1 Kings 17:7-24.
 - What is your first reaction when reading about the two extraordinary acts Elijah is involved in?
 - Do you ever read about the people God used to do incredible things in his name and think they have something special you don't have? Share why or why not.
3. Elijah is an ordinary person who was able to access God's extraordinary power. As you look at these two stories:
 - Where do you see Elijah's humanity? Consider 17:9 and 17:20.
 - How does Elijah access God's power? Consider 17:10 and 17:20-21.
4. Discuss the statement: *We experience the extraordinary power of God through obedience and prayer.*
5. To be an agent of renewal means you act on behalf of someone. How was Jesus an agent of renewal in his life?
6. We're not all called to be an Elijah but we have been sent by Jesus to continue what he started (see John 20:21-22).
 - Do you have a sense of how Jesus is leading you to be his agent of renewal in the world around you? If yes, share what you are sensing.
 - If you don't have a sense yet, are you willing to ask Jesus to reveal it to you? Share why or why not (yet).
7. End by praying for God to fill you with his Spirit and lead you to be agents of renewal in your sphere of influence this week



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[LEADERS NOTES]

RESOURCES TO HELP YOU FOLLOW JESUS

- centralheights.ca/followjesus

STORIES

- We love hearing how God moves in people's lives. If you or anyone in your group has a story and would be willing to share, we'd love to hear it and celebrate with you. You can share your story by emailing stories@centralheights.ca

MESSAGE Video and Audio can be found at:

<https://www.centralheights.ca/currentseries>