

# Sermon Starter/ Meditation

(based on 1 Kings 17:1-24)



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Do you remember a time you reached the end of a task or project? When you did everything the best you knew how to meet your own needs? When you had exhausted all the resources at your disposal, and you were only left with the reality of your inability staring back at you? What did you do??

The natural response is for us to worry, right?

This is the story of two people whose hope sustained them during the famine.

God knew that Elijah needed to be fed. If you think that food delivery services like DoorDash or Skip the Dishes are only modern inventions, God sent the ravens to deliver bread and meat in the morning and the evening! God provided a brook to quench Elijah's thirst. So, you can imagine how Elijah felt when he went for his usual drink and found that the brook had dried up and the ravens had stopped their daily food hampers!

Widows were known to be poor and still are in some communities. This foreign widow could not provide for herself and her son, what about another full-grown man? And yet she was God's solution to sustain Elijah through the famine.

Elijah finds her at the gate scavenging for twigs and sticks to make a fire for their last meal. Imagine how the widow felt when Elijah asked her for a tumbler of water- and a meal to top up!

Her response, "As surely as the LORD your God lives. 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" (NIV). She had officially given up hope, but even in her hopelessness, she still honored the hospitality of her culture.

**In verses 15-16, the widow did as Elijah had told her: "So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. 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" (NIV).**

# Suggested Scriptures

## **1 Kings 17:1-24**

Prophet Elijah and the widow.

## **Luke 5:1-11**

Jesus calls his first disciples.

## **Romans 15:13**

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in believing, so that you may abound with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

## **Isaiah 40:30-31**

Even youth will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted, But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, They shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

## **Hebrews 13:16**

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

