

THE WIDOW OF ZAREPHATH

A Permanent Hope

1. Please share your name with your group. Also share someone you admire and why you admire that person.

2. Tonight we are going to spend time getting to know the widow of Zarephath. Let's start by getting to know the circumstances in which she lived.
Read 1 Kings 16: 29-34. What do you learn about the spiritual and political landscape in which she lived?

- Read 1 Kings 17:1-7. Describe the weather and how that is influencing the lives of the people in the area, including the widow of Zarephath.

3. Read 1 Kings 17:8-16. Based on the verses you've read, how would you describe the widow of Zarephath's life before Elijah arrived.

4. Elijah makes several requests of the widow. Describe her verbal responses as well as her actions. Why are her actions significant?

- How does the widow's life change after she meets Elijah?

6. Read 1 Kings 17:17-24. Summarize these verses in your own words. What is important in this story?

7. Reread verse 24. What significant lesson does the widow grasp?

8. How has, or could, learning that God and His Word are true and reliable make a difference in your life? If you are comfortable, share specific examples from your life.

9. Having read the two instances of crisis in the widow's life, what are the similarities and differences between the two events?

10. The widow lived in a time of religious plurality. What are some of the different religious options that you have encountered in your life? What has most impacted you in choosing the spiritual beliefs that you have? (Please speak kindly and respectfully in discussing even religions and beliefs that are not true.)

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1 Kings 17:8-24

1 Kings 17:8-9

Life hits hard on the widow and leaves her helpless, desperate and hopeless.

She finds herself socially isolated.

She lives among many _____ lost and confused.

She stands days away from _____ death.

She must have been emotionally distraught.

*The beginning of her spiritual journey...
Yahweh God is one among multiple gods.*

1 Kings 17:10-16

God provided the widow a unique opportunity.

God asked the widow to provide food for Elijah while she and her son were dying.

This opportunity appeared _____ on the surface.

God provided food for many days for the widow, her household and Elijah.

This opportunity brought a chance for physical and spiritual _____ for herself, her son, Elijah, and then many more!

*The continuation of her spiritual journey...
God is a perplexing, present provider.*

1 Kings 17:17-24

The widow experienced God through her son's death and resurrection.

She learned that God and His Word are true: _____, faithful, and constant.

Her story of the true God mirrors God's message to all of Israel and the area.

For her, the _____ made all the difference.

*A key realization on her spiritual journey...
God is a powerful, death-conquering, life-giving, true, faithful God.*

Like the widow we today have access to a life-changing resurrection. How can we respond?

Know and Believe.

Realize the truth and reliability of God and His Word.

Live like the resurrection actually happened. You have a _____ hope.

Key: spiritually, physical, absurd, life, reliable, resurrection, permanent

The Good, the Bad, and the Beautiful - Old Testament

May 31, 2018

LUKE 4:24-25 And he said, "Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land, and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow."

ISAIAH 55:8-9 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

LUKE 24:6-7 "He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise."

JOHN 11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live"

1 CORINTHIANS 15:13-19 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

ROMANS 10:9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.