

2 Kings 4:1-7 English Standard Version (ESV)

1 Now the wife of one of the sons of the prophets cried to Elisha, “Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the Lord, but the creditor has come to take my two children to be his slaves.” **2** And Elisha said to her, “What shall I do for you? Tell me; what have you in the house?” And she said, “Your servant has nothing in the house except a jar of oil.” **3** Then he said, “Go outside, borrow vessels from all your neighbors, empty vessels and not too few. **4** Then go in and shut the door behind yourself and your sons and pour into all these vessels. And when one is full, set it aside.” **5** So she went from him and shut the door behind herself and her sons. And as she poured they brought the vessels to her. **6** When the vessels were full, she said to her son, “Bring me another vessel.” And he said to her, “There is not another.” Then the oil stopped flowing. **7** She came and told the man of God, and he said, “Go, sell the oil and pay your debts, and you and your sons can live on the rest.”

Discussion/Journal Questions

2020 has brought a lot of changes. Among the changes have been shortages or delays of various products like toilet paper. What has been the most frustrating shortage you have faced this year? What is something you use or consume weekly that would really bother you if there was a shortage on that product?

In the sermon, John shared the Scarcity Cycle. We consume leading to a lack leading to fear which leads back to more consumption. How have you felt trapped in the scarcity cycle?

What do you think is the root of our fear of scarcity?

Read John 10:10. What do you think Jesus means when he talks about abundant life?

Read 2 Kings 4:1-7. How did God provide for the widow in the story? Do you believe this actually happened? Why or why not? Do you believe God can provide for our needs today?

In the sermon, John said, “God’s something often follows our faith. We tend to get it backwards, we often think, ‘God if you give me what I need then I will step out and do what needs to be done.’” Have you ever answered God’s call to do something scary? What happened?

John also made the statement, “We get stuck when we stop pouring and we start storing.” In addition to resources like money or toilet paper, what are some other ways we hoard instead of pouring out?

What scary steps of faith is God calling you to take? How can your group help you take those steps?

Who are you praying for to accept Jesus, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?

Who are you currently discipling, and what specifically did you do this week to help them know, love, and follow Jesus?

Who are you considering for future discipleship relationships, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?