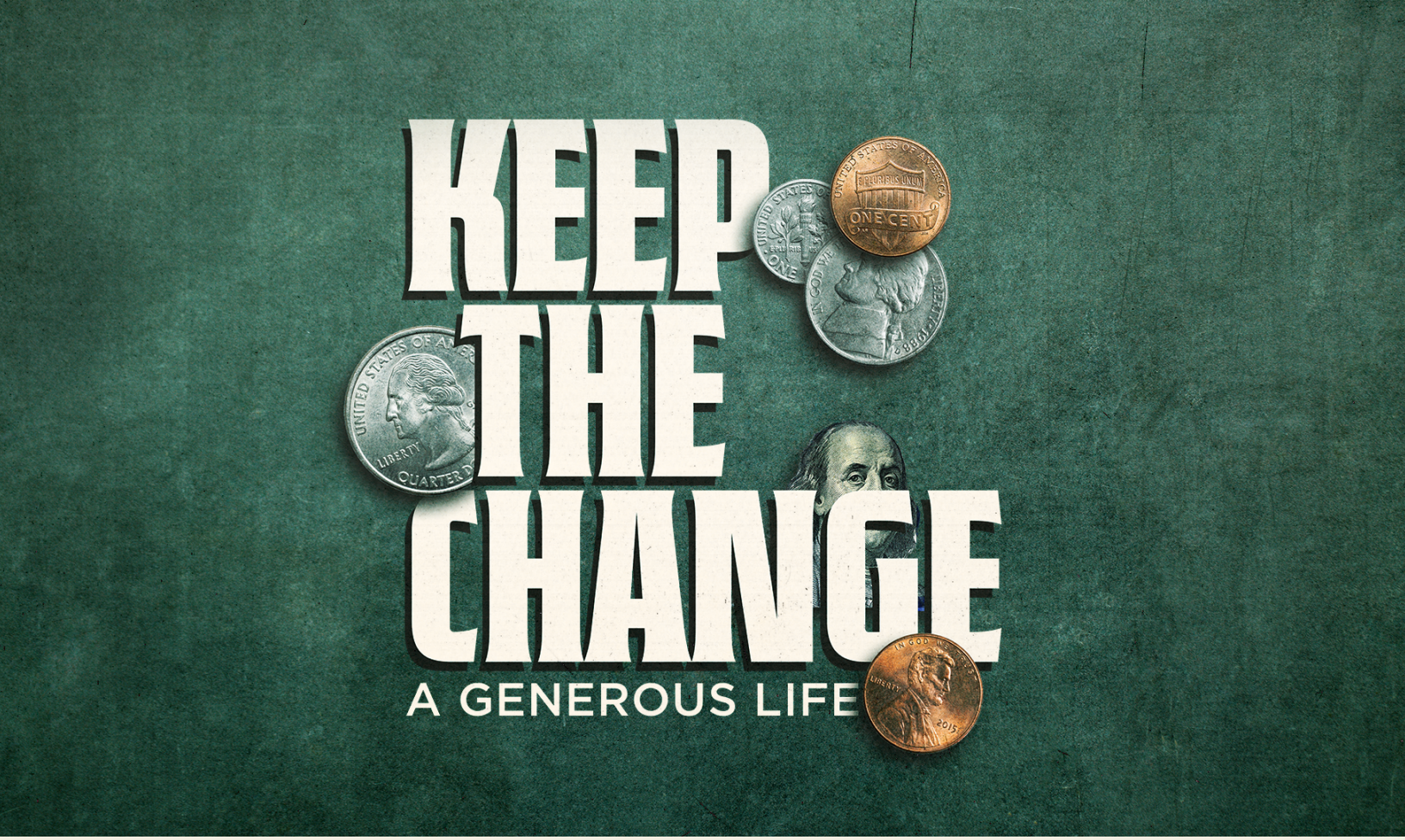


WEEK TWO · PASTOR TRAE FENTERS

What Do You Have?

2 Kings 4:1–7

5-DAY DEVOTIONAL · SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Compassion CHURCH

5-DAY DEVOTIONAL

Trusting God With What You Have

DAY 1 Bring Your Real Need to God

READING · 2 KINGS 4:1–2; JOHN 16:33

A widow cries out to Elisha. Her husband, a man who feared the LORD, is dead, and a creditor is coming to take her two sons. This was a household acquainted with serving God, and still it faced a devastating crisis. Faithfulness does not exempt you from hardship. Jesus said, "In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33, ESV). Notice that the widow did not pretend everything was fine or shrink the size of her need. She told the truth. You do not have to clean up your circumstances before you bring them to God. Come to Him grieving, afraid or unsure of what happens next. Today, stop pretending and tell Him what is real.

REFLECTION

Where have you been trying to appear strong when what you really need is to tell God, and maybe one other person, how much you are struggling?

TRY THIS WEEK

Take ten minutes today to name one real need out loud to God in plain words, without minimizing it. Then ask one trusted person to pray with you about it this week.

DAY 2 Faith Prepares Before It Sees

READING · 2 KINGS 4:3; GENESIS 22:1–14

Elisha gives the widow a strange command: "Go outside, borrow vessels from all your neighbors, empty vessels and not too few" (2 Kings 4:3, ESV). She needs money, not empty containers, and she already knows her oil cannot fill them. Yet she is asked to prepare for something she cannot yet see. Faith acts on what God has said before it sees what God will do. We often want the order reversed: show me the plan, and then I will obey. Abraham climbed the mountain with Isaac before he ever saw the ram, trusting the character of the God who provides. You do not have to know how God will provide to trust the God who provides. Take the step He has already made clear.

REFLECTION

What step of obedience are you holding back on until God shows you exactly how everything will work out?

TRY THIS WEEK

Write down one thing God has already made clear to you. Before the week ends, take one small, concrete step toward it, even if you cannot yet see the outcome.

DAY 3 There Is No Shame in Needing Help

READING · 2 KINGS 4:3–4

The provision would happen inside the widow's home, but gathering the vessels meant reaching beyond it. She had to go to her neighbors and ask. She could not follow this instruction while insisting on doing everything alone, and that took humility. Some of us find giving easier than receiving. We will bring someone a meal but hide an empty refrigerator. We will pray for others but struggle to admit we need prayer. There are seasons when God's care comes to you through other people. You do not lose your dignity when you need help, and your circumstances do not make you less valuable to God or to His people. Her neighbors supplied the vessels, and God supplied the oil. Let someone help you.

REFLECTION

Is it harder for you to give help or to receive it? What makes being needy feel so different from being needed?

TRY THIS WEEK

Name one need you have been hiding. This week, tell one person about it and accept the help they offer, whether it is prayer, a meal or an hour of their time.

DAY 4 God Works Behind the Closed Door

READING · 2 KINGS 4:4–5; MATTHEW 6:1–4

Elisha tells the widow, “Then go in and shut the door behind yourself and your sons and pour into all these vessels” (2 Kings 4:4, ESV). The neighbors helped supply the vessels, but they were not invited inside to watch. The miracle happened in the secret place, with a mother and her sons trusting the word God had given. Jesus taught the same about giving: your Father who sees in secret will reward you. The world says that if something matters, somebody needs to see it. Yet some of the most significant things God does in your life will happen where there is no crowd to recognize them. You do not have to draw attention to something that already has His. Shut the door and meet Him there.

REFLECTION

Is God's attention enough for you? What would change if you gave, served or obeyed knowing that only He would ever see it?

TRY THIS WEEK

Set aside fifteen minutes alone with God today. Close the door, put your phone in another room, and offer Him one thing you have been holding back.

DAY 5 God Provides What You Could Never Produce

READING · 2 KINGS 4:5–7; JOHN 3:16

As she poured, the vessels filled, one after another, until her son said, “There is not another” (2 Kings 4:6, ESV). The oil flowed as long as there were vessels. Her part was to obey, and God's part was to provide. Then Elisha told her to sell the oil, pay her debts and live on the rest. This is not a promise that God will multiply your money every time you give. Generosity is not a transaction. Her story points to a greater debt, the debt of our sin, that we could never repay. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son” (John 3:16, ESV). That is where generosity begins. You give because you have received. Trust Him with what you have today.

REFLECTION

Could it be that you ask for little because you expect little? Where might God be inviting you to bring Him more empty vessels?

TRY THIS WEEK

Choose one opportunity this week to give, serve or meet someone's need with what you already have. Do it quietly, and write down three ways God has already been generous to you.

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, thank You that generosity begins with You and that You gave Your Son for a debt we could never pay. Help us get honest with You, prepare for Your provision, and obey with what we have, trusting You with what happens next. Amen.

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

What do you have?

OPENING PRAYER & ICE BREAKER

> *Open your time together in prayer, asking God to help each person bring Him what they have and trust Him with what they need.*

Ice Breaker: What is one small, ordinary item in your home, like a tool, a dish or a little jar, that turned out to be far more useful than you ever expected?

SERMON OVERVIEW

Pastor Trae walked through 2 Kings 4:1–7, where a widow facing a debt she could not pay told Elisha all she had: a small jar of oil. He asked us the question Elisha asked her: What do you have? He drew out three ways to trust God with it: get honest with God, prepare for His provision, and obey with what you have. We see how trusting God changes the way we give, because little is much in the hands of God.

KEY SCRIPTURE · 2 KINGS 4:2

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." (ESV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Section 1 · Get Honest With God

1. Read 2 Kings 4:1–7 together. What words or phrases stand out? What do you notice about what the widow had compared with what she needed?
2. Pastor Trae said that "fear focuses on what we might lose, but faith trusts the God who is able to provide." When you think about giving, which voice tends to speak louder in you, and why?
3. The widow's husband feared the LORD, yet her family still faced a crisis. Jesus said, "In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33, ESV). How does that promise shape the way you face hard seasons?

4. The widow did not pretend or minimize her need. She said plainly that she had nothing but a jar of oil. Without sharing more than you are comfortable with, what makes it hard for you to be that honest with God or others?

Section 2 · Prepare for God's Provision

1. Elisha told the widow to gather empty vessels, and not too few, before she saw any oil. Pastor Trae said, "Faith acts on what God has said before it sees what God will do." Where are you waiting to see the whole plan before you move?
2. Abraham climbed the mountain with Isaac before he saw the ram, trusting what he knew of God's character. You do not have to know how God will provide to trust the God who provides. What do you know about God that helps you take your next step?
3. Expectant faith begins with listening to God. When a crisis comes, many of us try to figure it out alone or gather advice from others first. Where do you usually turn first, and what would seeking God first look like this week?
4. Borrowing vessels took humility. Some of us will bring someone a meal but hide an empty refrigerator, or pray for others but struggle to admit we need prayer. Why might receiving help be harder for you than giving it?

Section 3 · Obey With What You Have

1. The oil flowed behind a closed door, with no crowd watching. We live in a world that says if something matters, somebody needs to see it. What does meeting God in the secret place look like for you right now?
2. The widow was not responsible for multiplying the oil. Her responsibility was to obey, and God's responsibility is to provide. Where are you trying to carry God's part, and what would it look like to simply do yours?
3. The oil kept flowing as long as there were vessels, and stopped when they ran out. Could it be that we ask for so little because we expect so little? What would praying bigger look like in your situation?
4. The widow's paid debt points to a greater debt of sin that God paid through Jesus. Generosity begins not with what we give to God but with what He has given us. How does remembering that change the way you give?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ Generosity begins with God. He gives because He loves, and the cross is the greatest example of generosity we have.
- ✓ Fear focuses on what you might lose. Faith trusts the God who is able to provide.
- ✓ Faithfulness does not exempt you from hardship, and you do not have to clean up your circumstances before bringing them to God.
- ✓ Faith acts on what God has said before it sees what God will do.
- ✓ Receiving takes humility just as giving does. You do not lose your dignity when you need help.
- ✓ Some of the most significant things God does in your life happen where no crowd is watching.
- ✓ Your responsibility is to obey with what you have. God's responsibility is to provide.
- ✓ Generosity is not a transaction. You give because God has already given you His Son.

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Choose one or more to put into practice before your group meets again:

Option 1 Name What You Have

Write down three things God has placed in your hands, such as time, skills or resources. Ask Him how He wants you to use one of them this week.

Option 2 Get Honest in Prayer

Bring one real need to God in plain words, without minimizing it. Then ask one trusted person to pray with you about it.

Option 3 Ask for Help

Let someone help you this week. Tell one person about a need you have been hiding and receive what they offer.

Option 4 Shut the Door

Set aside fifteen minutes alone with God behind a closed door. Seek Him, listen, and surrender one thing you have to Him.

Option 5 Take the Next Step

Obey one thing God has made clear to you without waiting to see how it will turn out. Give, serve or meet one need with what you already have.

PERSONAL JOURNALING

- What do I have that God can use?
- Is God's attention enough for me?
- Will I still give if nobody knows my name, and still obey if nobody applauds?
- What am I willing to trust God with this week?

ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONS

- Tell one person which challenge you chose, and ask them to check in with you before your group meets again.
- When you gather next, share what happened when you brought what you had to God.

CLOSING PRAYER FOCUS

- That each person would get honest with God about what they have and what they need.
- That each person would trust God's character enough to take the next step before seeing the outcome.
- That each person would find time behind a closed door to seek God and surrender what they have to Him.
- That anyone still carrying the debt of sin would receive Jesus, God's provision for what we could never repay.

LEADER NOTES

- The message was careful to say that giving in secret does not put God in our debt or guarantee a financial miracle. If the conversation drifts toward giving to get, return to this: we give because we love and trust Him.
- Some may be carrying real financial pressure or grief. The message named the need, the bills and the uncertainty as real, alongside the faithfulness of God. Make room for honesty without pressing anyone to share.

- The message closed with an invitation to receive Jesus as God's provision for the debt of sin. Be ready to pray with anyone who wants to take that step.

> *Generosity isn't about having more, it's about trusting God with what we have.*
>
> PASTOR TRAE

Content © 2026 Compassion Church Florence.
Scripture quotations marked ESV are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), © 2001 by Crossway. Used by permission. All rights reserved.