

WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN YOUR HOUSE ?

When we don't know the story of the Bible, it's easy to discount the stories *in* the Bible. There is a temptation to come to the conclusion that these narratives are mythic accounts of epic proportions that contain miracles and magic that either never existed, or certainly couldn't happen today, to "normal" people like us. But the fact is, like the ordinary people in scripture who found themselves in extraordinary circumstances, there is often incredible potential for miraculous redemption laying around untapped in our everyday surroundings— in the talents, resources, opportunities, and relationships we take for granted on a daily basis.

Start Talking

1. Sherita talked about the ups and downs of her family's tradition of holding "theology school" every summer. What was your favorite summer tradition? Your least favorite?
2. If you had to live in one season— Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall— for the rest of your life, which would you pick?

Looking Back

1. What did the worship of certainty look like in your life this week? How did you resist it?
2. What steps did you take to remind yourself on a daily basis that the spirit of God resides within you, and is more than sufficient to get you through the uncertainties of life?
3. Who or what did you catch yourself "opposing" simply because it presented a challenge to your sense of certainty? How did you respond once you recognized this tendency?
4. Who or what did you catch yourself *desiring* more than the approval and reassurance of Jesus?

What About You?

1. Have you ever found yourself in desperate straits, depending solely upon the kindness of others to make it? When?
2. Is there anything right now that you can point to and say, "if only I had _____, I would be confident I could make it through this time?"



3. Do you ever find yourself feeling that your voice doesn't count for much? When are you most tempted to believe this line of thinking?
4. What questions, doubts, or concerns keep you from diving into redemptive work that you know needs to be done in your community?
5. What good work would you do if you had confidence that the surrender of your time, resources, and efforts would pay off?

Look It Up

Read the following passage before answering the questions below: 2 Kings 4: 1–7. Hebrews 11: 1–3.

1. What do you find significant about this widow's decision to approach Elisha? What stands out about her predicament and her attitude?
2. Why does Elisha seem to limit his questions to what this woman has in her house, without focusing on the quantity she has left or what she lacks?
3. In what ways do you think that faith functions as a prerequisite to accomplishing great things with the resources, talents, and opportunities we have?
4. Why do you think Elisha chose to involve the people around the widow in this miracle? What is significant about this inclusion?
5. How do you imagine this event affected the widow and her sons moving forward?

Putting It All Together

1. What talents, resources, or opportunities have you been overlooking and downplaying, rather than using?
2. What might it look like for you to have complete faith in the fact that you already have sufficient talent, resources, opportunities, and relationships to get involved in the redemptive work of God? What would change about your life this week?
3. What comforts has COVID forced you to forgo? What new opportunities do you have now to jump into the uncomfortable work God is doing in around you?
4. You may be mourning right now. There has been an enormous amount of loss in such a short time. Who can you tell in your community? With whom can you be "real?"
5. Who do you know who, like this widow, is currently mourning? What do you have "in your house" (*note: this doesn't merely mean material resources*) that you can leverage for their benefit?
6. What questions and doubts do you need to leave on the back burner this week in order to jump into action?

