

Small Group Guide: Living Faith Out Loud

Based on 2 Kings 4:1-7



Opening Prayer

Begin by thanking God for His provision and faithfulness, and ask Him to open hearts and minds during this discussion time.

Icebreaker

Share a time when you had to trust God with very little, and He provided more than you expected.

Key Scripture

2 Kings 4:1-7 - The story of the widow's oil

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text

1. **What parallels do you see between Elijah's ministry, Elisha's ministry, and Jesus' miracles?** How does this progression show God's increasing revelation to His people?
2. **Why do you think Elisha asked the widow "What do you have in your house?" before performing the miracle?** What does this teach us about how God works with what we already possess?

3. **The widow was instructed to shut the door and perform the miracle privately. How does this contrast with some modern approaches to faith and miracles?** What can we learn from this?

Personal Reflection

4. **Elisha asked, "What has God already provided you with?"** Take a moment to consider: What has God already given you that you might be overlooking in a time of need?
5. **The widow collected "not too few" vessels, demonstrating her faith in God's provision.** How does the size of our expectation affect what we receive from God? Share an example from your life.
6. **The pastor shared a story about learning to drive without brakes—a lesson that seemed pointless until it saved his life.** What "pointless" lesson or difficult season has God used in your life later on?

Application to Parenting and Discipleship

7. **The widow made sure her sons participated in the miracle, bringing her the vessels and witnessing God's provision.** How can parents and mentors intentionally include those they're raising or discipling in their acts of faith?
8. **What does it mean to "live your faith out loud" in front of your children or those you're mentoring?** What are practical ways to do this in everyday life?
9. **The widow acted in faith even though it probably looked crazy to her neighbors.** When have you had to step out in faith in a way that others might not understand? How did you handle the potential judgment or misunderstanding?

Church and Community

10. **The pastor shared how Come to Life Bible Church started with no building and no money, yet people showed up in faith.** What "empty vessels" is God calling your small group or church to gather in faith right now?

Key Takeaways

1. **God often asks us what we already have before He multiplies it.** We must recognize and be faithful with what He's already given us.

2. **Miracles don't need to be a show.** True faith often happens behind closed doors, not for public display.
 3. **Living faith out loud means letting those we're raising and mentoring witness our faith in action.** They need to see us trust God, not just hear us talk about it.
 4. **God provides not just enough, but abundance.** The widow had enough to pay her debt AND live on the rest.
 5. **Sometimes the lessons that seem pointless in the moment become the most valuable later.** Trust God's preparation in your life.
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Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose one of the following to put into practice:

For Parents:

- Involve your children in an act of faith this week. Let them see you pray about a specific need and watch God work. Include them in the process.
- Share a testimony with your children about a time God provided for you in an unexpected way.

For Mentors/Disciplers:

- Invite someone you're mentoring to participate in a ministry activity or service opportunity alongside you.
- Be transparent about an area where you're currently trusting God, and let them witness your faith journey.

For Everyone:

- Take inventory: What has God already given you that you could use for His kingdom? Time? Talents? Resources? Make a list and prayerfully consider how to use these things.
 - Identify one area where you need provision and collect your "empty vessels" in faith—prepare for God to do more than you expect.
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Reflection Exercise

Personal Inventory:

1. What is my "jar of oil"—what do I already have that God could multiply?
 2. Who in my life needs to see my faith in action? (children, mentees, friends, coworkers)
 3. What "debt" in my life (financial, emotional, relational) do I need to trust God to help me with?
 4. How many "vessels" am I collecting? Am I expecting little or much from God?
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Closing Prayer Points

- Thank God for what He has already provided
 - Ask for faith to trust Him with what we have
 - Pray for wisdom in living out our faith in front of those watching us
 - Request boldness to act in faith even when it looks foolish to others
 - Pray for provision for specific needs in the group
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For Next Week

Come prepared to share how God showed up when you stepped out in faith this week. What did you learn about living your faith out loud?

Additional Resources

Related Scriptures for Further Study:

- 1 Kings 17:8-16 (Elijah and the widow of Zarephath)
- John 2:1-11 (Wedding at Cana)
- John 6:1-14 (Feeding of the 5,000)
- Matthew 6:5-6 (Prayer in secret)
- Philippians 4:19 (God's provision)

5-Day Devotional: Living Faith Out Loud



Day 1: What Has God Already Given You?

Reading: 2 Kings 4:1-7

Devotional: When the widow cried out to Elisha, she felt she had nothing. Yet when asked, she discovered she had a jar of oil—exactly what God would use to meet her need. In our moments of desperation, we often overlook what God has already placed in our hands. Before asking for more, take inventory of your blessings. That relationship, that skill, that small resource—God may be waiting to multiply it. Faith begins not with what we lack, but with offering what we have to God. What has God already given you that you've dismissed as insignificant? Bring it to Him today and watch Him work.

Day 2: Faith Behind Closed Doors

Reading: Matthew 6:5-8

Devotional: The widow didn't perform her miracle in the town square. Elisha instructed her to shut the door and witness God's provision privately. True faith doesn't need an audience. Jesus echoed this principle when He taught about prayer—go to your closet, close the door, and meet with your Father in secret. Our culture celebrates public displays, but God honors private devotion. The most powerful miracles often happen away from the spotlight, in the quiet moments when it's just you and God. Your faith isn't validated by who sees it, but by the God who sees you. Where can you cultivate a more private, authentic faith today?

Day 3: Include Those You're Discipling

Reading: Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Devotional: The widow didn't experience God's miracle alone—she brought her sons. They participated, witnessed, and learned faith by watching their mother trust God. This is biblical discipleship: living your faith out loud before those you're raising and mentoring. Your children and those you disciple don't just need your instructions; they need to see your faith in action. They need to watch you trust God when the outcome is uncertain, pray when you're anxious, and obey when it's costly. Faith is more caught than taught. Who is watching your life? Are they seeing authentic trust in God? Let them participate in your faith journey today.

Day 4: God Provides More Than Enough

Reading: John 6:1-13

Devotional: The widow collected vessels, and God filled them all—with enough left over to live on. Jesus fed thousands with five loaves and two fish—with twelve baskets remaining. Our God is not a God of barely enough; He is the God of abundance. When we step out in faith, He doesn't just meet our need—He exceeds it. The leftovers testify to His generosity and remind us He's capable of more than we ask or imagine. Your current need may feel overwhelming, but it's an opportunity for God to demonstrate His sufficiency. Trust Him not just to meet your need, but to overflow your cup.

Day 5: Prepared for the Moment

Reading: Proverbs 22:6

Devotional: The pastor shared how his father's driving lesson—learning to drive without brakes—saved his life decades later. We rarely understand the purpose of difficult lessons in the moment, but God is preparing us for future challenges. The widow's faith was tested, but it prepared her sons to trust God in their own lives. Every trial, every lesson, every act of obedience is training for something ahead. God wastes nothing. That hardship you're walking through? It's not punishment—it's preparation. The faith you exercise today equips you for tomorrow's battles. Trust that God is preparing you for a moment when you'll need exactly what He's teaching you now.