

**Elijah Series**  
**1 Kings 17:8-24**  
**Discussion Guide**

**Pray**

Apart from God, we can do nothing. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion. Throughout your time together, continue asking God for help.

**Read Scripture**

Read “Overview of Elijah Series” together as well as 1 Kings 17 with special focus on 17:8-24.

**Bible Study: The HEAR Method**

The bulk of your time will be spent discussing God’s Word together. HEAR is an inductive Bible study method that looks closely at what the Bible says to discover what it means so that we can faithfully apply it to our lives.

**HEAR** stands for:

- **Highlight**: read and observe everything in the passage carefully.
- **Examine**: based on your observations, discover what the passage means in its context.
- **Apply**: determine how the meaning of the passage applies to your life.
- **Respond in prayer**: pray God’s Word back to Him.

**Remember:**

- Walk through the Bible study together using the HEAR method and talk about what stuck out most to you in the passage.
- Make sure you move discussion to the application section of your study.
- Affections, beliefs, and practices: Make sure to apply the passage to all your life.

**Pray**

- Take time to pray for one another and ask for His grace to apply His Word to our daily lives.

**Open:** Share a time where God has provided for you, or someone close to you, in an unexpected way?

**Study:**

1. In this passage of Scripture, we see Elijah traveling alone to Zarephath to live on the outskirts of society with a Gentile widow and her son. Food was still scarce here, as in the wilderness, yet God continued to provide for his needs in miraculous ways. What do you think would have been most difficult about this experience for Elijah? How do you think this season would have required him to trust in the Lord while preparing him for what was ahead?
2. Elijah is sent to a lowly widow and her son who were literally preparing to starve to death. Why do you think that God used the Gentile widow to provide for Elijah’s needs?

3. Why does God choose to use the lowly things of this earth for His purposes? Does this remind you of another example from the New Testament (consider Luke 1)? How does this encourage you as you consider God using you for His glorious purposes?
4. Consider the widow's charge and response to Elijah about her son's death in 17:17-18. Why did she immediately jump to these conclusions? In what ways are these commonly expressed in our day and age? Why?
5. What is the widow's response when Elijah raises her son from the grave (17:24)? What light might this shed on the purpose of this episode in relation to the larger context of the struggle between Baal and the God of Israel throughout the next few chapters?

**Apply:**

- 5) When life gets hard, where are you tempted to reach the same conclusions about God like the widow did at her son's death? Why are you tempted in these ways?
- 6) How does the raising of the widow's son pre-figure God's rescue of His people through the Gospel?
- 7) In what ways does this reminder that God is greater than any false God (i.e. ability to provide for His people in miraculous ways and even raise from the dead) encourage you to trust in Him today?

**PRAY:**

- Take time thank God that He is faithful to provide for His people.
- Ask God's blessing to see His hand at work in all circumstances.
- Ask God for fresh faith to trust Him.
- Take time to pray for one another to live faithfully unto God.

NOTE: have taken some questions for this discussion guide from Gavin Ortland's *Knowing the Bible: 1-2 Kings, A 12-Week Study*.