

What do you do when a dream has died?

After this the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, became ill. And his illness was so severe that there was no breath left in him. ¹⁸ And she said to Elijah, "What have you against me, O man of God? You have come to me to bring my sin to remembrance and to cause the death of my son!" 1 Kings 17:17-18

There's a shutting in God calls us to.

And he said to her, "Give me your son." And he took him from her arms and carried him up into the upper chamber where he lodged, and laid him on his own bed. ²⁰ And he cried to the Lord, "O Lord my God, have you brought calamity even upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by killing her son?" 1 Kings 17:19-20

There's a stretching out God calls us to.

Then he stretched himself upon the child three times and cried to the Lord, "O Lord my God, let this child's life come into him again." 1 Kings 17:21

There's a standing up that God brings to us.

And the Lord listened to the voice of Elijah. And the life of the child came into him again, and he revived. ²³ And Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper chamber into the house and delivered him to his mother. And Elijah said, "See, your son lives." ²⁴ And the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is truth." 1 Kings 17:22-24

- This story positions our hearts for the salvation God wants to bring now.
- This story also points us ahead to the salvation God will bring then.

Let's Talk About It

We've all experienced moments when a dream falls apart, a prayer goes unanswered, or the future we imagined seems out of reach. In 1 Kings 17, the widow's story reminds us that God often meets us in our disappointment and invites us to bring our pain honestly into His presence. Like Elijah, we're called to trust God with what seems impossible and believe that He can bring new life where we see only loss. Ultimately, this story points us to Jesus, who conquered death and gives us hope that He is still bringing redemption, both now and for eternity.

1 Kings 17:17-24; Romans 8:31-39

- Which part of the message impacted and challenged you?
- Read 1 Kings 17:17-20. Elijah brought the widow's pain directly to God instead of avoiding it. How are you tempted to respond when life doesn't go according to plan? What does it look like to "shut yourself in" with God—to bring Him your disappointments, slow down, and seek Him in the middle of your pain?
- Read 1 Kings 17:21. Elijah "stretched himself out" over the boy, refusing to give up in prayer. Is there a situation or person you've stopped praying for that God may be inviting you to bring before Him again?
- Read 1 Kings 17:22-24. What area of your life feels like it needs a "standing up" moment from God? How can you continue trusting Him even if the answer doesn't come right away?
- Because Jesus conquered death, we have hope that no loss or disappointment is beyond His redemption. How does that truth change the way you face your current circumstances?

Take a Step

Spend time with God over the area of your life where you've lost hope or are tempted to give up. Instead of avoiding it, bring it honestly before Him in prayer and ask Him to help you trust Him with the outcome. Then take one step of faith that reflects your confidence that God is still at work.

Here's My Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for being with me even when my plans fall apart and my dreams seem to die. Help me bring my disappointments honestly before You instead of carrying them alone. Give me faith to trust that You are still working, even when I can't see it. Fill my heart with hope, remind me that nothing is impossible for You, and help me keep my eyes fixed on Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen.