

WOMEN OF THE OLD TESTAMENT ZAREPHATH WIDOW; WIDOW'S OIL

Pray and ask God to help you to know Him better as you study His Word.

Read the Bible passage (preferably without using commentaries).

Begin to answer the questions using your own words.

Questions are based on the New International Version (NIV) 2011 edition.

Lesson 18 • March 6, 2013

1. What truth, verse or insight from last week's study of **Queen of Sheba** has been helpful to you?

SECTION I: Read 1 Kings 17:1-16

2. a) In **V1**, what message was Elijah relaying to King Ahab? (For background: **Deuteronomy 11:13-17**)

b) Read **1 Kings 16:30-33**. Describe Ahab and his spiritual legacy.
3. What instructions did the LORD give to Elijah, and how did Elijah fare in **V2-6**?
4. How did Elijah's circumstances and God's instructions change according to **V7-9**?
5. From **V10-11**, who did Elijah encounter, and what did he ask of her?
6. a) What details do you learn about the widow and her outlook on life from **V12**?

b) In **V13**, what emotion did Elijah see in the widow?
7. a) What strikes you about what Elijah asked of her in **V13**?

b) How would God's promise in **V14** reassure her?

8. What truth can you draw from **V15-16**?
9. What character traits do you admire in this widow thus far and why?

SECTION II: Read 1 Kings 17:17-24

10. a) What crisis arises in the widow's life in **V17-18**, and describe her emotions?
- b) Do you have similar tendencies when facing a crisis? Explain.
11. a) How might the widow have been affected by Elijah's immediate response and appeal in **V19-21**?
- b) What effect does it have on you when others carry your burden and cry out to the LORD on your behalf?
12. Summarize how the miracle was recorded and how it impacted the widow of Zarephath in **V22-24**?
13. a) Read **Luke 4:24-26**. Think about why Jesus used this widow as an example, and write a truth based on her story.
- b) What is revealed about the heart of God toward the widow?

SECTION III: Read 2 Kings 4:1-7

14. Describe the widow's predicament in **V1**. (For background in Jewish law, read **Leviticus 25:39-43**.)
15. When loved ones face a crisis, it's easy to move into "rescue mode." What does Elisha's response in **V2** teach you, and where will you apply his wisdom?
16. Read **V3-4**. What was significant about Elisha's specific instructions?

17. Describe how the widow's obedience and trust were blessed by the LORD in **V5-7**.

18. Track the widow's progression of faith from **V2b-7**.

19. As you reflect on these two widows' stories:

a) From either your own experience or from Scripture, share about a time when God multiplied a small offering to supply a need in a big way.

b) Recall a time God has asked you to do something in complete dependence on His provision. How did you respond, and in what ways did this grow your faith?

20. Write a prayer on something you've learned from this lesson.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. God's concern for widows is reflected throughout Scripture. What provisions has He made, or what instructions has He given for widows in the following verses:

Deuteronomy 10:17-18

Isaiah 1:17

Jeremiah 22:3

2. What parallels do you see between the stories of the widow of Zarephath and:

a) the widow of Nain in **Luke 7:11-17**

b) the unnamed widow in **Luke 21:1-4**

3. Suggested Memory Verse: **Psalm 146:9**

