

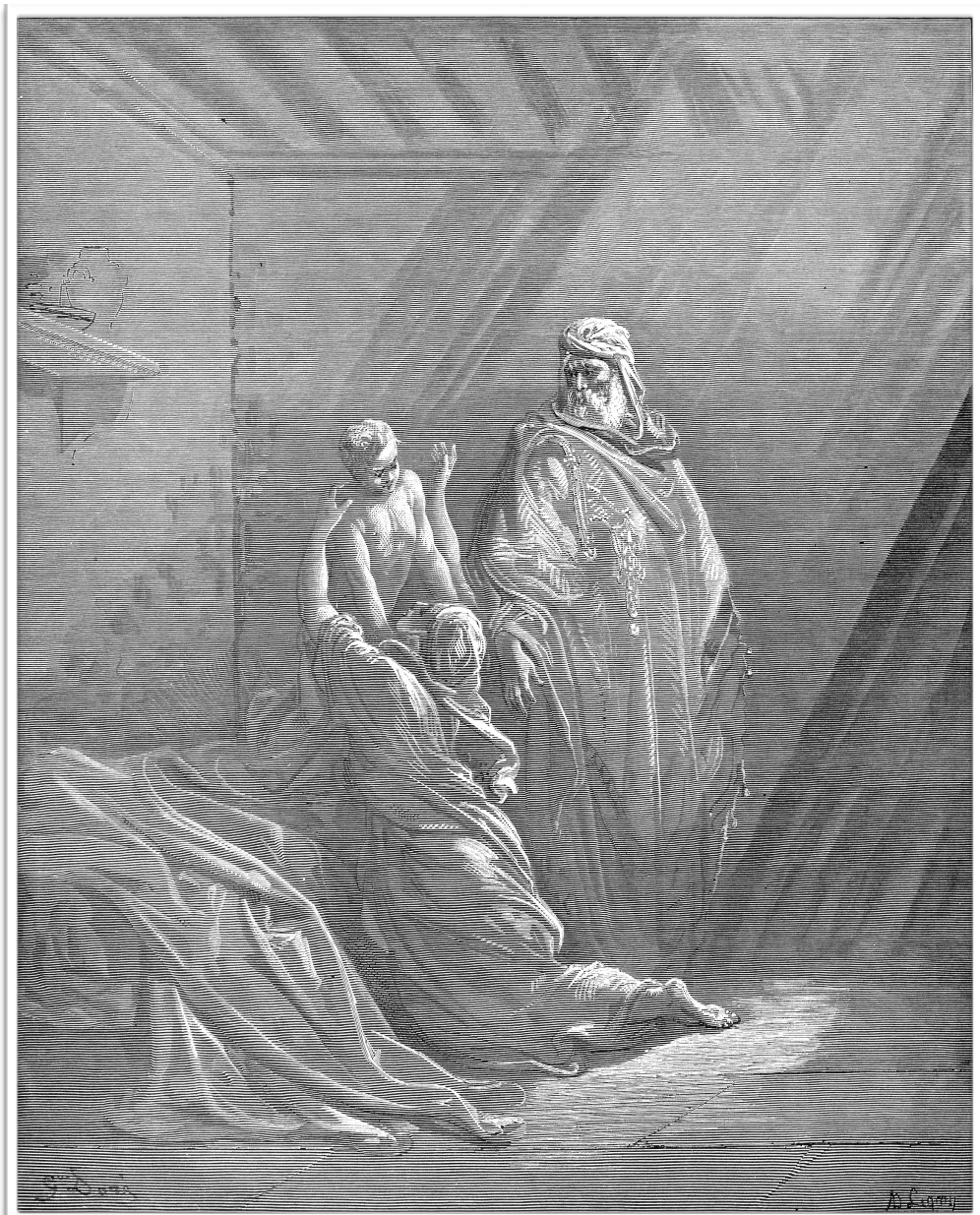
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# Elijah and the widow at Zarephath

**Week 2 - 1 Kings 17:7-24**

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Mid-week Bible Study



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## Importance of Kings

Donald Wiseman (former member of Battle Baptist Church) writes,

[Kings'] frank statement of the triumphs and tragedies of God's people has a relevance for us today. These things were recorded as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on the things they did. They were also written as warnings so that when we think we are standing firmer than they, we must be careful not to fall (1 Corinthians 10:6) They were written to help the original readers and us to endure in times of testing and to encourage us to hope in the same unchanging God.

[Tyndale Old Testament Commentary, 1 & 2 Kings, Donald Wiseman]

**Baal:** Baal literally means 'Lord' (direct opposition to the Lordship of Yahweh). Baal was supposed to be the son of El, the chief God (although he was more powerful). He was a fertility God believed to make the earth produce crops and people produce children. He was worshipped in many different ways and took on different forms such as Baal' Zebub whom the Philistines worshipped and where the name Beelzebub originated.







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### **The account of Elijah and the widow of Zarephath reminds us:**

- God often uses unlikely people and sources to \_\_\_\_\_.
- God's mercy extends to \_\_\_\_\_.
- God requires \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Some questions to consider in groups**

- When God speaks to us, guiding us in a particular way, how do we respond?  
Positively, negatively, quickly, slowly, some other way and if so why?
- What kind of faith is required for living with just enough for each day and no more?
- How would the miracle of the flour and oil have appeared to the widow in retrospect if her son had died?
- What is the importance of action to back up our words as believers?
- In what way do you find it easy or difficult to obey God when you don't know what the outcome will be?
- What if God 'fails us' and doesn't respond, answer or come through for us as we pray he will? Do we find ourselves 'turning on God' in situations and if so why do we think this happens?
- What step of faith do you need to take at this time in your life?
- What evidence do the people around you need in order to believe that you are a child of God?