



WEEK 3 DEVOTIONAL

MIRACLES AT ZAREPHATH | Trusting God in Times of Fear

RECEIVE

Slowly. Prayerfully, read and/or listen to **1 Kings 17:7–24**, two times. Before and after each reading, pray asking the Spirit of Christ to guide you into knowing and living what you are receiving from the Scriptures. Consider, what does God want you to reflect on and learn from?

REFLECT

1. Share or journal about a time in your life when you felt like your plans and God's plans didn't match up? Did you feel like you were reading from a different map or story? How did you handle that emotion? How has that affected your faith?
2. Which of the prayers below have you prayed in your life? Why? Is there one that resonates with your life and journey right now? Journal or share why that is.
 - What are You doing, God?
 - This wasn't in the plan!
 - It wasn't supposed to go this way!
 - I've done all that You asked, why does life keep getting harder?
 - I am living obedient, can't You see?
 - Shouldn't it start getting easier now?
 - ...this...is not...supposed to be the...plan.

RESPOND

1. Using the prayers of desperation from above, in faith, finish the prayer as an affirmation of your longing to see and experience the active presence of God in your life. Allow the one that most resonates with your life right now to be your prayer.

Example: What are You doing, God? God, I don't understand what You are doing but I trust You, I just really need some help in that right now.

2. From following Elijah through today's passage, we can glean these three formational points below. Which of the formational points do you especially need to hear today? Journal or share why that formational point is a helpful reminder and what tensions you are experiencing.
- God is present in the mess and is always carving out a path for us. Even if the paths are unusual.
 - God often acts outside of the borders and boundaries of our plans and expectations.
 - God is the giver and sustainer of life.

RESOURCES

As we start this new series it's often helpful to know the context and a little background about the Book as it can help inform our understanding of the stories shared. Take a few minutes and watch this overview of the [Book of Kings by the Bible Project](#)

SCRIPTURE

1 Kings 17:7–24 | New International Version

⁷Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. ⁸Then the word of the LORD came to him: ⁹"Go at once to Zarephath in the region of Sidon and stay there. I have directed a widow there to supply you with food." ¹⁰So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, "Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?" ¹¹As she was going to get it, he

called, “And bring me, please, a piece of bread.”¹² “As surely as the LORD your God lives,” she replied, “I don’t have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die.”¹³ Elijah said to her, “Don’t be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son.”¹⁴ For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD sends rain on the land.’”¹⁵ She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family.¹⁶ For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the LORD spoken by Elijah.¹⁷ Some time later the son of the woman who owned the house became ill. He grew worse and worse, and finally stopped breathing.¹⁸ She said to Elijah, “What do you have against me, man of God? Did you come to remind me of my sin and kill my son?”¹⁹ “Give me your son,” Elijah replied. He took him from her arms, carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his bed.²⁰ Then he cried out to the LORD, “LORD my God, have you brought tragedy even on this widow I am staying with, by causing her son to die?”²¹ Then he stretched himself out on the boy three times and cried out to the LORD, “LORD my God, let this boy’s life return to him!”²² The LORD heard Elijah’s cry, and the boy’s life returned to him, and he lived.²³ Elijah picked up the child and carried him down from the room into the house. He gave him to his mother and said, “Look, your son is alive!”²⁴ Then the woman said to Elijah, “Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the LORD from your mouth is the truth.”