

August 7, 2011

Willow Park South
Small Group Questions

"Elijah: Part 2"

1 Kings 17:8-24

- Please read 1 Kings 17:8-24 together at the beginning of your small group meeting.

Discussion:

What verse in the selected reading stands out to you the most? Why does it stand out to you?

Explanation:

What two requests did Elijah make of the widow at Zarephath? (17:10-11)

What step did Elijah ask the widow to take in faith? (17:13)

What promise did Elijah make if the widow would be obedient to God? (17:14)

What did the Lord do for Elijah, the widow, and her son? (17:15-16)

When Elijah took the son from his mother, what question did he have for God? (17:19-20)

Application:

Describe a time when you decided to step out on faith and obey God even though that decision didn't seem to make sense to you at the time. Did that experience strengthen your relationship with God? If so, how?

Just as the widow thought that God was punishing her because of her sin (vs 18), do you ever think that God is punishing you with tough circumstances? Does God punish His children? What is the difference between punishment and discipline?

- **Hebrews 12:7-11** (ESV) *"It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? [8] If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. [9] Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? [10] For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. [11] For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it."*

In what way do you find it easy or difficult to obey God when you don't know what the outcome will be?

Just as God provided the flour and the oil for the widow, what is our spiritual bread that sustains our Christian lives?

- **John 6:35** (ESV) *“Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.”*