

MESSAGE NOTES: WALK BY FAITH

James 5:16-18 The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. ¹⁷ Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. ¹⁸ Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

1 Kings 17:1 Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, “As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word.”

1 Kings 17:2-6 Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah: ³ “Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. ⁴ You will drink from the brook, and I have directed the ravens to supply you with food there.” ⁵ So he did what the LORD had told him. He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there. ⁶ The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook.

1 Kings 17:7-16 Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. ⁸ Then 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.”

¹⁰ So 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?” ¹¹ As 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.

Faith Group Questions

1. What did the Holy Spirit teach you or remind you about during Sunday's worship service?

2. Read James 5:16-18. In this series, we're comparing ourselves to the Prophet Elijah. What intimidates you about comparing yourself to Elijah? With what words does James level the playing field?

3. Read 1 Kings 17:1. One of the first things God called Elijah to do was confront the idolatry of Israel. What is God calling you to confront in your own life or in someone else's?
 - a. How can your group support you?

4. Read 1 Kings 17:2-7. In which area(s) of your life is God calling you to trust him no matter what? Meditate on and pray over how God miraculously provided for Elijah. What is the Holy Spirit teaching you through these words?

5. Read 1 Kings 17:8-24. How did God once again test Elijah and now the widow? Why does God allow you to go through seasons of testing? (see 1 Peter 1:3-9; James 1:3-4, 12; and Deuteronomy 8)