

## A Lesson about Faith

*Read 1 Kings 17: 17-24*

### Introduction

Faith gets tested when we are hit with painful situations, challenging circumstances, trials or tests. But our faith muscles get stronger when we have to push against the powerful weight of those challenges.

Elijah had a strong faith, and he challenged the widow of Zarephath to have faith as well—even as she faced dire circumstances. Faith is acting like God is telling the truth. It means not giving up on God when things get difficult. Faith requires that we believe God has our best interest in mind, even as we face situations that pressure us, as the widow did.

Faith in God is measured by what you do, not how you feel. "By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going." (Hebrews 11:8) Abraham believed God and in faith left his home city to step out into the unknown.

Faith in God does not mean our lives are free from testing and trials. This certainly was not the case for the widow of Zarephath or for Abraham. "By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son." (Hebrews 11:17) And, it may mean that, like Abraham, God will give us specific trials to reveal the real strength of our faith.

### Getting Started

1. What one point resonated with you from this morning's sermon?
2. Elijah had rescued the widow and her son by miraculously providing them with food. She was grateful, but then her circumstances changed. How did she respond to that change?
3. Faith is acting like God is telling the truth. You measure faith by what you do, not by how you feel. Based on this definition of faith, how would you describe the faith of the widow?

### Let's Get Personal

1. What situation are you facing right now where things are "not so"—where things are not right or not as you wish they were? Looking back, can you think of a situation that pressed and tested you in the moment, but in the long run actually helped you to grow?
2. The widow's faith was weak. How did she piggy back on Elijah's faith? Tell about a time when your faith was weak and you relied on the faith of someone else to get you through that time.

### Take the Next Step

1. Sometimes, we need to have the faith to help others, as Elijah did. How close are you willing to get to the problem, and be used by God to be the solution? What problem might God want to use you to be the solution?

### Renew Your Mind

*Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. Hebrews 11:1*