

TITLE AND NUMBER: 53. God provides for our needs



REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S): 1 Kings 17:10b-16

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?' As she was going to get it, he called, 'And bring me, please, a piece of bread.' '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.' 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. 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.'" 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. 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.

LOOKING FURTHER: Exodus 16:11-15, Exodus 17:1-6, Matthew 14:13-21; Philippians 4:19

What does this Bible passage tell us?

Elijah was a prophet who lived in Gilead (modern-day Jordan) at a time of great famine. In the verses immediately before this passage, God told Elijah where to go to find a brook from which he could drink and that the ravens would feed him with bread and meat each morning and evening. Elijah obeyed God and ate and drank what He provided until the brook dried up.

In this passage, God instructs Elijah to go to Sidon where He had told a widow to supply him with food. Elijah obeyed God. The widow realised he was a man of God (v.12) and did what Elijah asked. As a result, Elijah, the widow and her family were all provided for.

Elijah did as God told him, and God was faithful in providing for his needs. God also provided for the widow and her family because she trusted in Him. God promises to supply all our needs (Philippians 4:19). Our part is to trust Him and obey His word.

It is not always easy to know what God wants us to do. However, if we ask ourselves whether it is in line with Jesus's teachings, if we pray and if we talk to those who know God, we should begin to recognise what He is saying. Remember that He wants us to live a full life and by trusting Him and doing what He asks, our lives will be fulfilled.

Reflections:

- Do you find it difficult to know whether it is God speaking to you? If so, try praying about it and speaking to those who can help you.
- God promises to provide for our needs, not necessarily for our wishes. Think about the difference between your needs and your wishes.
- How can you be sure that God only wants what is best for you?

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

