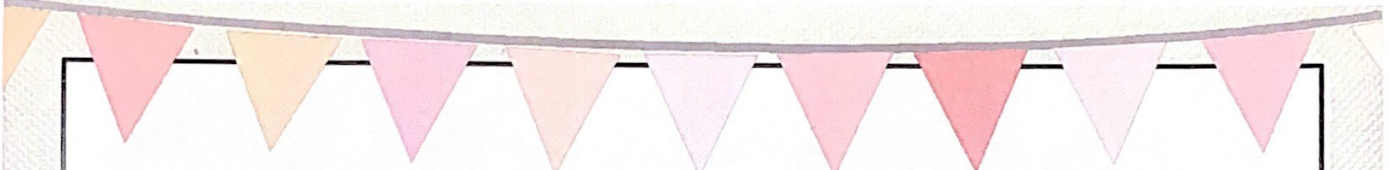


The Widow of Zarephath: A Generous Mother

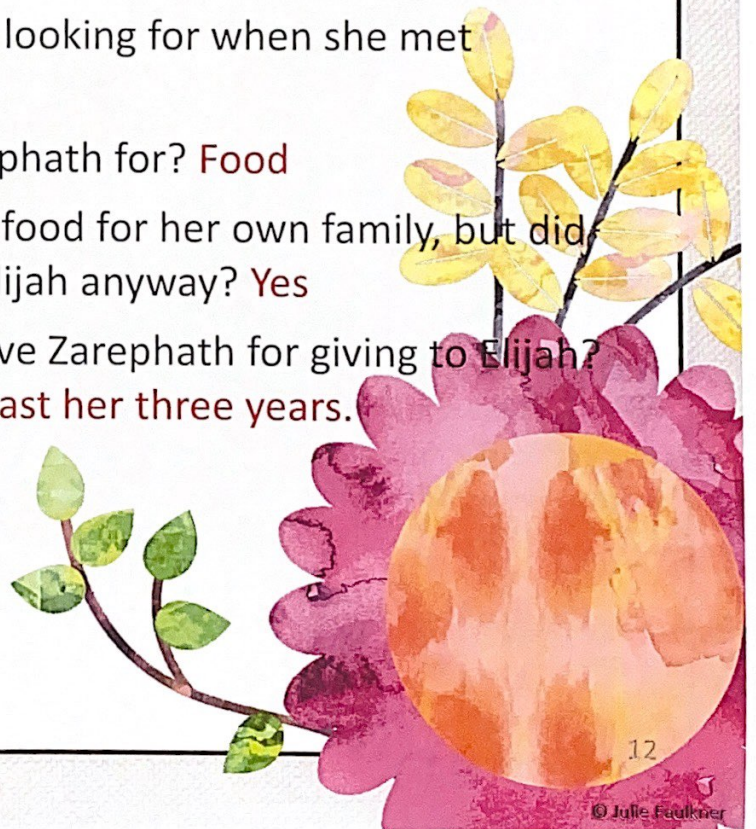
One day God commanded Elijah, a great follower of God, to leave Israel and go to Zarephath since there was a great drought in the land. A drought is when it doesn't rain for a very long time and the streams dry up and the plants and animals begin to die. In this town lived a widow woman, and God had told Elijah that she would take care of him. This woman had some very sad things happen to her in her lifetime. Her husband had died, and now the land had been in a drought for three and a half years. Every day this mother scanned the cloudless sky, hoping for a cloud and rain. She had been using very small portions of the flour and the oil that she did have to make it stretch for her family until the end of the drought. It hurt her to see her son so thin and without energy. She was doing all she could to provide for him, but she was afraid they would both soon starve to death. One day, there was only enough left for one last meal. Holding her son's hand, the widow left the dusty town of Zarephath to hunt for firewood in order to cook the last of their bread. The widow, while out gathering firewood to make a last meal for herself and her son, sees Elijah and recognizes him as a believer in God. Elijah was tired, hungry, and thirsty, and God had told Elijah to go see this widow. She seems like an unusual person to help Elijah since she was from a different country than him and she herself was poor and starving. She barely had enough food to feed her son. But Elijah asks her for water and her last bread. He is inviting her to take a leap of faith, to surrender all she has. The widow didn't think she had enough ingredients to make enough food for Elijah and her son, but she took her last bit of flour and oil and made bread to give Elijah. As a result of her obedience, selflessness, and generosity, God performed a miracle. She and her son miraculously escaped starvation and had a constant source of food. It's hard to imagine the astonishment she must have felt to see this incredible miracle happen, not just once but forever. God uses mothers, and anyone who will listen and follow him, to show his mighty love and grace. 1 Kings 17:7-16

Video Suggestions: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=anQfzIBbNxQ>



The Widow of Zarephath: A Generous Mother

- 1) Why did God tell Elijah to leave Israel? **Because there was a drought in the land**
- 2) What is a drought? **When it doesn't rain for a very long time and the land is too dry for anything to grow and for people to have water**
- 3) Who was Elijah supposed to find when he got to the new town? **A widow woman**
- 4) What is a widow? **A woman who has lost her husband**
- 5) What did Zarephath not have enough of for her family? **Flour and oil**
- 6) What was Zarephath go looking for when she met Zarephath? **Firewood**
- 7) What did Elijah ask Zarephath for? **Food**
- 8) She didn't have enough food for her own family, but did she give some food to Elijah anyway? **Yes**
- 9) What reward did God give Zarephath for giving to Elijah? **Enough flour and oil to last her three years.**



Name: _____

The Widow of Zarephath: A Generous Mother

The widow of Zarephath trusted God's plan and gave all she had to help Elijah, so God performed a miracle so she could have a way to provide for her family. "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:19

