

ULC Sermon Study Resource

Standing to Serve

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October 24th, 2021

Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: Show us your phone background and tell the story behind why you picked this image.

Reading: 1 Kings 17:1-24

Outline:

- I. God's people live by God's Word in the face of opposition. (1 Kings 17:1-7)
 - a. Elijah obeys God and goes to speak to King Ahab.
 - b. When Israel's king is opposed to God and His Word in every way, Elijah makes it the very thing he lives by
Q: How does Elijah live by God's Word?
- II. God's people live by God's Word in the face of desperation (1 Kings 17:8-16)
 - a. Desperation doesn't produce conviction; it simply reveals it
 - b. Though desperate for herself, the woman obeys God through Elijah's request and will not run out of food.
Q: In what ways does the widow live by God's Word?
- III. God's people live by God's Word in the face of tragedy (1 Kings 17:17-24)
 - a. When we live by God's Word, it doesn't always look like shouts of joy and praise. In the face of tragedy it looks like tears and agony
 - b. The promise that you are invited to rest in is this: God has already heard your lament.
Q: How does God respond to our lament?

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) Where are you facing opposition in your life?
- 2) What does desperation look like for you and how do you respond to it?
- 3) How are we invited to respond to the desperation and tragedy in our lives?
- 4) What does God promise us?

Suggestions for further study:

- Deuteronomy 8:3 **Q: What are we invited to understand here? How are we reliant on God?**
- Philippians 2:11-13 **Q: What does God promise us?**

Closing Prayer:

Gracious God, You have given us your word that we might trust in it and live by it. But Lord we know we can't do that on our own and so Lord we ask that you would let your Spirit rest in us, strengthen our faith, and draw us back to you by the power of that Spirit. So that in the face of every circumstance of life, that our trust would always be in you. We pray this in your name, Amen.