

**APPLICATION**

- What part of this teaching challenged you the most and why?
- In what areas of your life have you struggled to trust God's unlimited provision? What practical steps are you going to take to change?
- Is there an expression of faith (like the widow feeding Elijah with her last food), that God has been prompting you towards? What is it and when will you obey?

**PRAYER**

- Reflect on how much God has blessed you over the course of your life – start by giving thanks to him for his incredible provision
- Repent to God for looking to other things as your source
- Pray for God's unlimited blessing on your life – especially in areas where you've lost hope
- Pray for God's blessing as you reach out to your friends and colleagues with the gospel.

<b>UNLIMITED</b>	<b>THE FLOUR &amp; THE OIL</b>
<b>WEEK 3</b>	

**NOTES**

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**WARM UP**

- What is the one thing that if you lost, you would struggle to carry on with your life?

**WORD**

13 And Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go and do as you have said, but make me a small cake from it first, and bring it to me; and afterward make some for yourself and your son. 14 For thus says the Lord God of Israel: "The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth."

**1 Kings 17:8-19 (See also 2 Kings 4:1-7)**

Not many of us doubt that as Creator, God has unlimited resources at this disposal. We generally don't doubt that he is able to do anything he wills – and we quite easily believe that he's willing and able to do amazing things for other people! But trusting God for something you need when your back is against the wall, and believing that he is not only able, but willing to come through for you can be a bit of a challenge. This lesson is taken from two very similar stories of two widows who had encounters with two prophets – Elijah in the first story, and Elisha in the second. Allow their stories to stir your faith for God's intervention in your story.

**1. GOD IS OUR UNLIMITED SOURCE**

*And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.*

**Philippians 4:19**

There are two words that if we confuse, we're headed for trouble – source and resource. God is our source, and he makes resources available to us, like our jobs. But how easily do we start to see our job as the source of our provision, rather than as a resource given by God? We also tend to look to our own strength and wisdom, as though they do not also come from God. Is there something in your life other than God that you are looking to as your source (of joy, strength, provision, security, protection? Etc)

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**2. HE IS NOT SHAKEN BY OUR CIRCUMSTANCE**

*I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die."*

**1 Kings 17:12**

There's a good reason that these two stories are included in the Bible. Widows in ancient times were a very vulnerable group of people. This particular widow was at the end, and was ready to die, along with her son (the other was about to lose her son to slavery). Here's the point – there is no situation so desperate that God cannot intervene! You may say, "you don't know what I'm going through," and that's true, but nothing you're going through can surprise or overwhelm God. Take time to share some of your greatest challenges with your group, and start to believe that God can!

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**2. HE IS WILLING AND ABLE**

*The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, according to the word of the Lord which He spoke by Elijah.*

**1 Kings 17:16**

Both stories begin with unbelievable desperation, and end with miraculous provision. In the first story, Elijah instructed the widow to feed him first (with her last food!) and then feed her and her son. Often the bridge between desperation and provision is faith! Faith believes God's Word, no matter what. Faith does what may seem foolish to the human mind, in order to obey God. It's like tithing when you're not sure you'll have enough for your needs. God is willing and able, but he wants us to trust him 100%

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