

1 Kings 17 takes place during the reign of King Ahab, when Israel had turned towards Baal worship. Elijah announced that God would send no rain, challenging Baal, who was believed to control storms and fertility. A severe drought followed. God first fed Elijah beside the Kerith Ravine, then sent him to Zarephath, a town outside Israel in Sidon, the homeland of Queen Jezebel. There he met a poor widow gathering sticks for a final meal with her son. Although she had almost nothing, God asked her to trust his promise through Elijah. Her obedience showed remarkable faith and God provided flour and oil daily throughout the drought, sustaining her household and Elijah.

Can you remember a time when something you had—time, money, food or energy—went further than you expected?

Read 1 King 17:8-16

1. What did God tell Elijah to do, and where did God send him? (v8–9)
2. What was the widow doing when Elijah met her? What does this tell us about her situation? (v10–12)
3. How did the widow describe what she had left? How might she have been feeling?
4. Elijah told her, “Don’t be afraid.” What promise did he give her? (v13–14; Isaiah 41:10)
5. Why do you think it took faith for the widow to follow Elijah’s instructions? (Hebrews 11:1, 6)
6. What happened when the widow trusted God and obeyed? (v15–16)
7. God used the little flour and oil she already possessed. What gifts or resources has God already placed in your hands? (Exodus 4:2; 1 Peter 4:10)
8. Why might God choose to work through someone poor, powerless or easily overlooked? (1 Corinthians 1:27–29; Luke 4:25–26)
9. The flour and oil were provided day by day. What can this teach us about trusting God each day? (Matthew 6:11, 31–34; Exodus 16:4)
10. How did the miracle bless Elijah, the widow and her whole household? How can God’s blessings flow through us to others? (Genesis 12:2–3; 2 Corinthians 9:8–11)
11. “The miracle happens in community, not isolation.” Why is working together important? (Galatians 6:2; Acts 2:44–47)
12. What needs do you see in your church or local community? How might God use the church to bring practical change? (Matthew 5:13–16; James 2:14–17)

Prayer Points

Pray for the bereavement journey course that Guy and Luci are leading. Pray for those attending who are seeking to find help and support in their journey through loss.

Pray for young people in Sierra Leone. Pray for economic stability, improved education and employment opportunities.

Sermon Notes



BIBLE STUDY

October 4th 2026

BMS Harvest

The Oil that Never Runs Out
1 Kings 17:8-16

BMS World Mission is a Christian mission organisation, founded in 1792. Today it works with churches, local partners and mission workers in more than 30 countries across four continents. Its vision is a world where everyone can experience faith in Jesus Christ and the abundant life he gives. BMS brings together people, money, prayer, skills and resources to share the good news of Jesus and offer practical hope where it is most needed. Its work has three main areas: helping people hear the gospel and become disciples; bringing hope through healthcare, education, justice and sustainable livelihoods; and supporting people displaced by war, persecution or natural disasters. Rather than simply providing outside aid, BMS works alongside local churches and communities, recognising their gifts and helping them create lasting change.

If you would like to join a Connect Group, please contact the church office 01424 730001