



How (Not) to Save the World, Week 4: Rely on Your Own Power

- The lie: I must rely on _____ power to save the world.
- The truth: I must rely on _____ power to save the world.

How do I rely on God's power? Lessons from Elijah - 1 Kings, Chapter 17.

The Drought:

Now Elijah, who was from Tishbe in Gilead, told King Ahab, "As surely as the Lord, the God of Israel, lives—the God I serve—there will be no dew or rain during the next few years until I give the word!" Then the Lord said to Elijah, "Go to the east and hide by Kerith Brook, near where it enters the Jordan River. Drink from the brook and eat what the ravens bring you, for I have commanded them to bring you food." So Elijah did as the Lord told him and camped beside Kerith Brook, east of the Jordan. The ravens brought him bread and meat each morning and evening, and he drank from the brook.

1 Kings 17:1-6 (NLT)

- The Lesson: Learn to _____ to and _____ God.

The Dry Brook:

But after a while the brook dried up, for there was no rainfall anywhere in the land.

1 Kings 17:7 (NLT)

- The Lesson: Even when you are doing the right thing _____ can come.

The Depleted Barrel:

Then the Lord said to Elijah, "Go and live in the village of Zarephath, near the city of Sidon. I have instructed a widow there to feed you." So he went to

NLT (New Living Translation)

Zarephath. As he arrived at the gates of the village, he saw a widow gathering sticks, and he asked her, "Would you please bring me a little water in a cup?" As she was going to get it, he called to her, "Bring me a bite of bread, too." But she said, "I swear by the Lord your God that I don't have a single piece of bread in the house. And I have only a handful of flour left in the jar and a little cooking oil in the bottom of the jug. I was just gathering a few sticks to cook this last meal, and then my son and I will die." But Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid! Go ahead and do just what you've said, but make a little bread for me first. Then use what's left to prepare a meal for yourself and your son. For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: There will always be flour and olive oil left in your containers until the time when the Lord sends rain and the crops grow again!" So she did as Elijah said, and she and Elijah and her family continued to eat for many days. There was always enough flour and olive oil left in the containers, just as the Lord had promised through Elijah.

1 Kings 17:8-16 (NLT)

- The Lesson: Step out in _____ and use what God has _____.

The Dead Boy:

Some time later the woman's son became sick. He grew worse and worse, and finally he died. Then she said to Elijah, "O man of God, what have you done to me? Have you come here to point out my sins and kill my son?" But Elijah replied, "Give me your son." And he took the child's body from her arms, carried him up the stairs to the room where he was staying, and laid the body on his bed. Then Elijah cried out to the Lord, "O Lord my God, why have you brought tragedy to this widow who has opened her home to me, causing her son to die?" And he stretched himself out over the child three times and cried out to the Lord, "O Lord my God, please let this child's life return to him." The Lord heard Elijah's prayer, and the life of the child returned, and he revived! Then Elijah brought him down from the upper room and gave him to his mother. "Look!" he said. "Your son is alive!" Then the woman told Elijah, "Now I know for sure that you are a man of God, and that the Lord truly speaks through you."

1 Kings 17:17-24 (NLT)

- The Lesson: Believe and ask God to do the _____.

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Discussion Questions

1. Do you consider yourself as someone who likes to be in control of things? Or more like a go-with-the flow kind of person?
2. Share an experience when you relied on your own skill, talent, and ability to accomplish something particularly challenging. How did that go for you?
3. What challenges are you currently experiencing this season that you can ask others and God for help in overcoming?
4. Why do you think we need to rely on God's power?

Recommended Resources

- *How (Not) to Save the World*, by Hosanna Wong
- *Desiring God's Will*, by David G. Benner
- *Hearing God*, by Dallas Willard



Session 3 | Rely on Your Own Power (Grow in Generosity)

Connect: In your small group, take 5 to 7 mins to connect. Below are a few questions to guide your discussion.

- On a light-hearted note, share with us one of the worst or weirdest gifts you've ever been given, or one of the best, most unexpected gifts you've ever been given.
- Share with us a time that someone helped you and it left a lasting impression.

Read: In your small group, read and reflect on the following passages. See reflection questions below.

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

6 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 9 As it is written: "They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever." 10 Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. 11 You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. 12 This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. 13 Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. 14 And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. 15 Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Reflect:

- What does this passage teach us about God's role vs. our role in giving?
- How could this passage also be applied to sharing our faith with others?
- Why do we need to rely on God's power when it comes to giving?
- What is at risk if we are not giving people? What is at risk if we are not a generous church?

Pray: Pray that God would show each of us the steps we can take to grow in generosity and bless others.