

15 So she did as Elijah said, and she and Elijah and her family continued to eat for many days. 16 There was always enough flour and olive oil left in the containers, just as the Lord had promised through Elijah.

1) What does this passage teach us about God's provision for Elijah during the drought?

2) Application to Church: How can our church trust in and celebrate the ways God provides for us during challenging times?

3) Personal Application: Have you ever experienced something God provided in a time when you desperately needed it? What was it?

4) How does the passage illustrate the relationship between obedience and God's provision?

5) Application to Church: How can our church cultivate a culture of obedience that aligns with God's provision and blessings?

6) Personal Application: Are there areas in your life where you need to be more obedient to experience God's provision?

7) How does the outcome of the widow's obedience (sustained provision) demonstrate the effectiveness of trusting in God's promises?

8) Application to Church: How can our church effectively communicate and stand on God's promises to encourage and sustain its members?

9) Personal Application: How can you actively trust in God's promises and experience their effectiveness in your personal journey?

## CHAIR TIME TOOLS

1) Think and pray through the following questions.

2) Is God asking you to trust Him with something? How will you respond? Think back about a time He has provided for you and take some time thanking Him for His past provision.

3) Who needs your prayers for them today? Lift them up to God.

## Lessons from the Wilderness: Waiting on God

Pastor Craig Sweeney | September 15, 2024

**Thread:** Like it or not, remaining in the will of God requires waiting.

*“Ahab son of Omri began to rule over Israel in the thirty-eighth year of King Asa’s reign in Judah. He reigned in Samaria twenty-two years. But Ahab son of Omri did what was evil in the Lord’s sight, even more than any of the kings before him. And as though it were not enough to follow the sinful example of Jeroboam, he married Jezebel, the daughter of King Ethbaal of the Sidonians, and he began to bow down in worship of Baal. First Ahab built a temple and an altar for Baal in Samaria. Then he set up an Asherah pole. He did more to provoke the anger of the Lord, the God of Israel, than any of the other kings of Israel before him.”*

**I Kings 16:29 - 33 NLT**

**People do what people will do.**

**God does what God does.**

*“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!’”*

**I Kings 17:1 NLT**

**God applies pressure.**

*“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.’”*

**I Kings 17:2 - 4 NLT**

**God makes a way for His remnant.**

- God is more than mindful of the remnant.
  - God will make a way for you. Are you looking for it?

*“So Elijah did as the Lord told him and camped beside Kerith Brook, east of the Jordan.”* **I Kings 17:5 NLT**

**God’s remnant has a choice.**

- Listen and follow God.
- Join God in the work He is doing.

*“The ravens brought him bread and meat each morning and evening, and he drank from the brook. But after a while the brook dried up, for there was no rainfall anywhere in the land.”* **I Kings 17:6 NLT**

**God provides for His remnant.**

- When you find yourself following Jesus into a wilderness, you will discover the miracle of provision.

*“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.’”*

**1 Kings 17: 8 – 9 NLT**

**Elijah remains vigilant and tender-hearted towards God’s will and direction.**

**Challenge:**

- Are you tired in the waiting? How do you think differently about your waiting?
- Renew your commitment to hearing His heart for you.
- Are you feeling hunger pangs? Experiencing thirst? Are you open to hear Him or are you upset because He has kept you waiting?
- What was the last thing you know God asked you to do? Did you do all of it?

*For practical, cross-cultural Bible studies related to sermon topics, visit [DougBrittonBooks.com/resources](http://DougBrittonBooks.com/resources)*

**Life Group Homework**

*Lessons From the Wilderness*

**Fall 2024 | Week 1**

Message Date 9/15/2024

**MY STORY** 

- 1) Do you prefer sweet or savory foods? Why?
- 2) How do you motivate yourself to do something you don’t want to do?

**QUICK REVIEW** 

- 3) What caught your attention from Sunday’s message?

**DIGGING DEEPER / TAKING IT HOME** 

**1 Kings 16:29–17:16 NLT**

29 Ahab son of Omri began to rule over Israel in the thirty-eighth year of King Asa’s reign in Judah. He reigned in Samaria twenty-two years.  
30 But Ahab son of Omri did what was evil in the Lord’s sight, even more than any of the kings before him. 31 And as though it were not enough to

follow the sinful example of Jeroboam, he married Jezebel, the daughter of King Ethbaal of the Sidonians, and he began to bow down in worship of Baal. 32 First Ahab built a temple and an altar for Baal in Samaria. 33 Then he set up an Asherah pole. He did more to provoke the anger of the Lord, the God of Israel, than any of the other kings of Israel before him.

34 It was during his reign that Hiel, a man from Bethel, rebuilt Jericho. When he laid its foundations, it cost him the life of his oldest son, Abiram. And when he completed it and set up its gates, it cost him the life of his youngest son, Segub. This all happened according to the message from the Lord concerning Jericho spoken by Joshua son of Nun.

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!”

2 Then the Lord said to Elijah, 3 “Go to the east and hide by Kerith Brook, near where it enters the Jordan River. 4 Drink from the brook and eat what the ravens bring you, for I have commanded them to bring you food.”

5 So Elijah did as the Lord told him and camped beside Kerith Brook, east of the Jordan. 6 The ravens brought him bread and meat each morning and evening, and he drank from the brook. 7 But after a while the brook dried up, for there was no rainfall anywhere in the land.

8 Then the Lord said to Elijah, 9 “Go and live in the village of Zarephath, near the city of Sidon. I have instructed a widow there to feed you.”

10 So he went to 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?” 11 As she was going to get it, he called to her, “Bring me a bite of bread, too.”

12 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.”

13 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. 14 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!”