

Group/Individual Study

Series: "This is Us" - Elisha

Passages: 2 Kings 4:1-7, Proverbs 30:8-9, Exodus 16

REFLECT on the message heard Sunday, 8/6

1. Read 2 Kings 4:1-7. Have you ever been in a situation that felt as desperate for you as the widow's situation must have felt to her? Have you ever experienced a time when God's provision for you seemed miraculous - or at least hard to explain given the situation you were in?
2. Ben spent time developing the idea that all of us have "empty jars" in our lives; that is to say, somewhere that - without God coming through - what we have is not enough. What seems to be the "empty jar" area of your life right now?
3. The message also dealt with how God sometimes fills our empty jars with "visible oil", ie. practical provision in the area of our need that provides aid or deliverance of some sort. While at other times He fills our empty jars with "spiritual oil" → meaning spiritual strength, grace, and encouragement to walk through the area of need. Tell of a time when God's given you "visible oil"? "Spiritual oil"? What blessings came to you in each case?
4. Read Proverbs 30:8-9. How can areas of need and dependence on God draw you nearer to Him? When can they become destructive? How can being too comfortable sometimes lull us away from God?
5. Scan Exodus 16. When God wanted to establish a people for Himself, He taught them through His provision of manna in the desert to trust Him daily to provide. What were the rules about how manna came and how it was to be collected? Why do you think this lesson was so important? How does God teach us to live this way today? What are the challenges to living this way?
6. What would it look like for you to give your empty jars over to God? How could this dependence become a place where intimacy is forged between you and God?