



**Welcome:** Describe a time in your life when you had to “skimp” on food.  
What was your most creative meal?

**Word:** Ahab was the ruler of the Jewish people who had married a foreigner called Jezebel. She was a strong character who did not worship the Lord and she corrupts her husband. Into this situation comes Elijah, of whom we have never heard before. He warns Ahab about his godless rule and of impending drought. God then sends Elijah to Zarephath in Sidon (a foreign land) to meet a widow. She had very little and was scavenging for sticks. Despite her poverty she responds to Elijah’s needs and they care for each other. When her son dies it is Elijah who comes to the rescue.

**Read 1 Kings 17:7-16.**

- 1 If you were the widow, how would you have responded to Elijah’s request in vv13-14?
- 2 Was she a believer in the true God or just in no position to argue?
- 3 Why does Elijah tell her to provide for him first?
- 4 Why does the woman comply?

**Read 1 Kings 17:17-24**

- 1 What does the woman assume when her son dies?
- 2 Why does Elijah work so hard on him?
- 3 What impact does her son’s recovery have on the widow?
- 4 What other responses can you imagine?
- 5 Will she lose faith again, at the next crisis?

This story shows us how outsiders can influence people.

Jezebel was an outsider influencing and corrupting the Jewish King.

Elijah was an outsider influencing and helping a widow who was ignored in her own community because she was female and poor.

**Q. Can you think of outsiders who have influenced you either for good or for bad?**

Another contrast we could make is between 2 foreign women who react differently to the Lord. One doesn’t respect him whilst the other one does.

**Q. Why did they react so differently?**

**Witness:** Thinking of Elijah and his actions, how can you witness to those around you effectively?  
What practical actions can you do to reveal God to others?

**Worship:** Place a few jars or jugs in the middle of the room. Ask people:  
“What ‘jars and jugs’ are running dry for you?” Ask God to fill you.  
Do you have any “impossible” request to bring before the Lord?  
Ask the Lord to do something miraculous for you. Pray for each other.