

## Small Group News

Services are ONLINE ONLY ([sunrisechurch.org](http://sunrisechurch.org))

**Serving Opportunity: National Days at the Food Pantry (12-3pm)**  
Tuesday 8/4 = Chocolate Chip Cookie Day & Monday 8/10 = S'mores Day

Email [need@sunrisechurch.org](mailto:need@sunrisechurch.org) for anyone who needs assistance  
**Prayer:** Wisdom for Leaders; Fall Ministry Plans; Back to School

## Small Group Questions

For week of August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020

## Strong in the Struggle

*I Kings 17*

### INTRODUCTION

If 2020 had a slogan it would be: The Struggle is Real. Nothing like a worldwide Pandemic, social injustice, and a pending Presidential election to increase the stress in our lives. Some are facing unimaginable battles with grief, loss of income, and family crisis that make the struggle all the more vivid. Some may even ask, "where is God?" But what if God is still at work in the struggle? This month we explore how to react to struggle by discussing the life of Elijah. Our first reaction is to give in to panic, anxiety, and faith crushing doubt. But, as we will discover, we can remain strong in the struggle because God still provides victories, help, justice, and hope; even in the darkest of times.

The focus of the week: **God's Provision**

### QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

### MY STORY

1. Name a gift you will never forget.
2. What's the weirdest thing you've ever eaten?

### DIGGING DEEPER

1. When it comes to God's provision, many think of food and shelter but are there other things the Bible says God provides for us? Let's examine some below:
  - **Food and Shelter: Matthew 6:25-34**
    - What does Jesus offer as proof that God will provide for His people?
    - Why is it difficult for people to trust God with their day to day needs?
    - Are there things you are anxious about? Explain.
    - How do Jesus' words help you fight anxiety in this season?
  - **Wisdom: James 1:5-7**
    - Has God ever provided wisdom for you in the past? Why or why not?
    - What doubts typically keep people from asking for wisdom in faith?
    - Explain what James means by "double minded."
    - Have does it look like to be "unstable in all your ways"? Has that ever been you?
    - For what areas of your life do you need wisdom now?
  - **Grace: Romans 5:1-2; Hebrews 4:14-16**
    - How would you define grace to someone?
    - How does grace help us in times of need?
    - Do you consider yourself to be bold in prayer? Why or why not?

- **Comfort: 2 Corinthians 1:3-5**
    - Share a time in your life when you experienced God’s comfort.
    - What are some ways we can comfort each other in times of need?
  - **Trials: James 1:2-4; Romans 5:3-5**
    - What is James’ reason for rejoicing in the midst of trials? Explain.
    - What are some of the benefits of trials?
    - Does God bring suffering into people’s lives? Why or why not?
    - Share a time in your life when God matured you through a trial.
  - **Way of Escape: 1 Corinthians 10:13; James 1:13**
    - Does God tempt His people?
    - Explain the process of sin that James describes.
    - Share some ways of escape from temptation that God has provided you.
2. You heard this week about Elijah’s time in isolation and struggle that led to growth for himself and the woman from Zarephath. Does the Bible record God working in this way through others?
- **Read: Genesis 39 (Joseph in prison); Luke 22:39-65 (Jesus’ arrest and betrayal)**
    - What about these two stories stands out to you regarding God’s use of struggle?
    - How did others benefit from the struggles of Joseph and Jesus?
    - Are you experiencing a time of isolation now? If so, how can it lead to growth in your life and the benefit of others?
3. As you wrap up the conversation, consider the following: God disrupted Israel’s political system and the lives of Elijah and the Woman of Zarephath to awaken them to His presence, plan, and provision.
- When in the past have you seen God disrupt your life and what did you learn and/or do?
  - What is He teaching you in the current disruption of the pandemic?

## TAKE IT HOME

This week take some time and brainstorm all the things God has provided for you in life. Think about people, things, and experiences that He has given you. Think about ways he has built your faith, your character, and your trust in Him. Spend time in prayer thanking Him for these provisions.

Now take some time and consider the things that are causing you stress, anxiety, or even doubt. If God has provided for you in the past, can He do it again? What doubts keep you from believing He will?

Consider what God wants you to do about the things on your list. Which things need to be let go of and entrusted to Him? Which need to be removed? And which need your immediate attention and action?

Take some more time and pray that God give you wisdom about how to handle the things on your list and the courage to do what He is telling you from His Word. Also consider asking godly friends to speak into some of the things on your list. Be sure to keep a record of what you do and what happens in order to stay connected and remember what God has, and is, doing in your life.

## GROUP PRAYER