

# different

## Week 4: Don't Despair, Share

Pray: In your own words, ask God to help you share the way He does.

“If I just had a little more.” “There’s not enough to go around.” “Times are tough.” “Everybody wants something from me.” These are expressions we hear, and sometimes say, when we are asked to share our resources with others. Yet our response may depend more on what’s in our heart than what’s in the bank.

Read: I Kings 17:7-16

Watch: “Scarcity”

Reflect

1. Are you a glass half-full or half-empty person? Do you tend to focus on the challenges or the opportunities? Has your thinking changed over the years? If so, what made the difference?
2. Times are desperate in Elijah’s day. Three years without rain means no food or water. Elijah asks a widow from a different religion to give him a portion of her last piece of bread. How would you react to such a request?
3. Elijah tells her his God will supply her needs. What did it take for her to trust this God? What fears did she need to overcome? What holds you back from fully trusting God? What might happen if you did?
4. Few of us have known the hunger this widow endured. With so many blessings and resources in our community, why do some despair about what they don’t have rather than share what they do?
5. Paul writes, “Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality” (Romans 12:13). What are some practical ways to share with people in need? Do you have the gift of hospitality? Why does it take “practice”? What are some ways you could share your faith by practicing hospitality?

Steps:

Sharing takes sacrifice. What is something you can give up in order to trust God and give more?

Share with your group one step of faith that will help you be different this week. Ask one person to hold you accountable to this step. Examples:

- A. Get to know your neighbors. Stop and talk with them. Do a favor. Invite them over for a meal.
- B. Pray and ask God how He wants you to grow in your giving to His ministry and mission. Then make the commitment.
- C. Step up to tithing – giving ten percent off the top – to God’s work.
- D. Create an action item of your own.

Pray: As you pray, ask Jesus to help you to focus on his abundant gifts and how He wants you to use them.