

**Discussion Guide**

*Use this guide by yourself, with a friend, or in a group to help you pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus this week!*

**Open**

In this week's *Get in the Game* message, Pastor Don reminds us of the principle Jesus taught in Luke 6:38: "Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back." The truth is that God blesses us when we show generosity with joy and thankfulness, and our choice to view material possessions as resources to be shared is a choice to demonstrate God's immeasurable generosity to us. To get your group started, share about a time when someone was generous with you - what happened and what effect did their generosity have on you?

**BIG THOUGHT**

When we choose to live lives of generosity, we open the opportunity for God to bless us in ways we could have never guessed or expected.

**Dig**

1. Our passage for today's study demonstrates how a simple act of generosity can lead to far more blessing than we can imagine. Read 1 Kings 17:1-9. Elijah, as God's prophet, has been speaking against the evil king Ahab. What does he tell Ahab? (v. 1) Where does Elijah go first? (v. 2-4) After that provision dries up, what happens? (v. 8-9) Zarephath is a non-Jewish region - if you were Elijah, would you have been surprised that God was sending you there? How does this demonstrate God's sovereignty?
2. What could Elijah have been trying to figure out by splitting his request to the widow into two separate questions (first water and then bread)? (v. 10-11) Does this reveal anything about his faith in how God was going to provide for him? Share your thoughts.

3. How did the widow answer Elijah's request? (v. 12) What does this tell us about her understanding of God? If you were Elijah, what would your first thoughts have been when she told the state of her supplies - frustration? Expectant? Disappointed? Something else?
4. If you were the widow, what would you have thought about Elijah's response in v.13-14? Why? In general are you more likely to jump first and ask questions later or get stuck in the "paralysis of analysis"? Share with the group.
5. Now read v. 15-16. Because of the woman's willing generosity, God provided for all three in her house (her, her son, and Elijah). Can you think of a time when you personally experienced God multiplying someone's generosity to do more than anybody expected? Share with the group...
6. Read Proverbs 11:24-25. How does the experience of Elijah and the widow illustrate the truth of these verses? What are practical ways that you can right now build generosity into your daily life? Give specific examples.

**Take it Further**

Thank God for the different ways He's been generous to you, and ask Him to show you specific ways you can offer generosity in your everyday relationships.

Daily Readings

Day 1: 1 John 3:17

Day 2: Hebrew 13:2

Day 3: Matthew 7:12

Day 4: Luke 6:38

Day 5: 1 Timothy 6:18

Day 6: 2 Corinthians 9:6

Memory Verse: Proverbs 11:25



1651 Dutch Fork Rd. Irmo, SC  
www.gatewaybc.com