



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Icebreaker: If you could live anywhere in the world for a year, where would it be?

1. Pastor Tom shared that when everyone and everything around you is standing for anything and everything else but God and His truth, you need hope. In what areas of your life do you need hope today?
2. Pastor Tom explained that Elijah and the widow both followed God's Word even when it was hard to understand. Have you ever had to do the same and what was that experience like?
3. Read [1 Kings 17:12, 15-16](#). Pastor Tom asked, "Will we actually believe what God has said?" What areas of your life do you find it challenging to believe what God has said?
4. Read [1 Kings 17:19-24](#). The widow and Elijah both cried out to God in their grief, pain and confusion and God did not respond with rebuke or correction. Pastor Tom explained that God's shoulders are wide enough and strong enough to handle our questions, struggles and pain. Do you struggle to honestly cry out to God when life doesn't make sense? Explain.
5. In what ways can you move from knowing God's truth to actively embracing God's truth?

Day One: [Psalm 15](#)

Day Two: [Proverbs 15](#)

Day Three: [Joshua 15](#)

Day Four: [Isaiah 15](#)

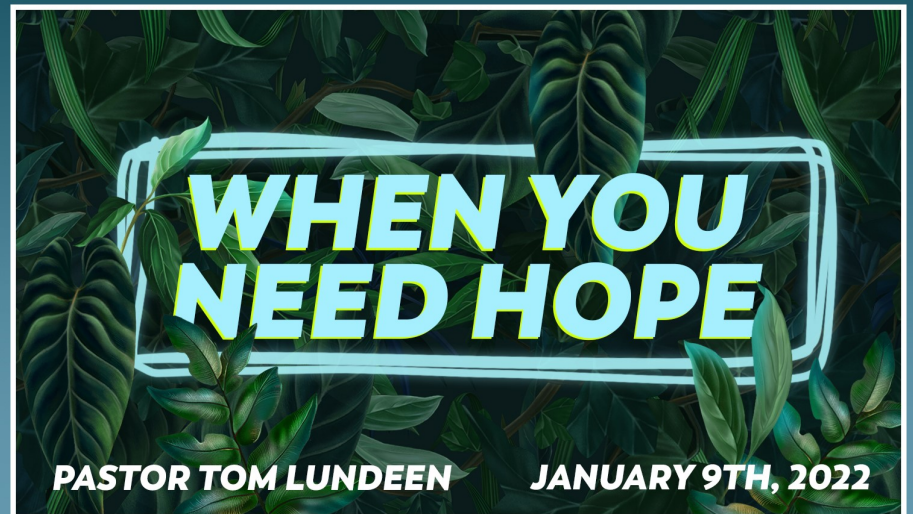
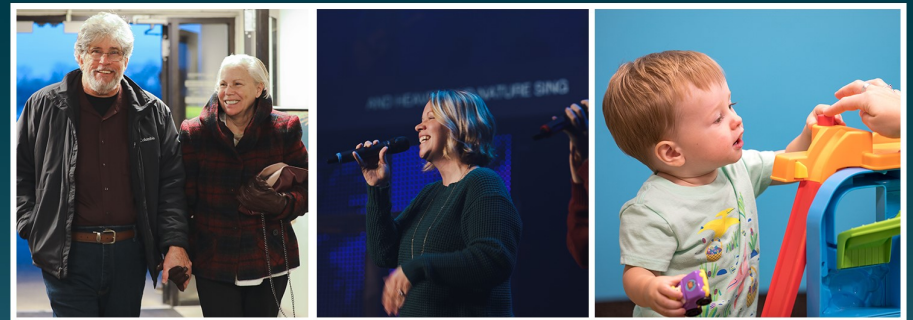
Day Five: [Acts 15](#)

*This Personal Guide has been adapted from
Professor Grant Horner's Bible Reading System.*

PERSONAL GUIDE



Your story matters.



MYRC.CHURCH



"WHEN YOU NEED HOPE"

Pastor Tom Lundeen

MESSAGE NOTES

Last Sunday we began this new series where our focus is on learning what it means to stand for God and His truth and embrace His _____ when everyone and everything around us is standing for anything and everything else but God and His truth.

Note 1 Kings 17:6-7

When everyone and everything around you is standing for anything and everything else but God and His truth, you need _____.

1. Follow God's Word Even When It's Hard to _____ (note 1 Kings 17:8-9)

Of any place God could have sent Elijah, He sends him on a _____ mile journey (_____) to a foreign nation where God and His truth were unknown or rejected, where false religions dominated the culture, and where Elijah would be a "fish out of water".

And who is Elijah to be helped by? A _____!

Note Deuteronomy 15:11

Note 1 Kings 17:12

And God's Word to this widow also seemed _____ (note 1 Kings 17:13-14).

Both Elijah (note 1 Kings 17:10a) and this widow (note 1 Kings 17:15a) _____ God's Word even when it was hard to understand...

2. _____ God to do What Only He Can Do

Will we actually _____ what God has said (not just intellectual _____; note James 2:19)?

Note 1 Kings 17:12, 15-16

3. _____ Cry Out to God When Life Doesn't Make Sense

Note 1 Kings 17:17-18

Note John 9:1-3

...this widow honestly cried out in her grief, pain, and _____ ...

Note 1 Kings 17:19-20

Notice in both the case of the widow and Elijah, God doesn't _____, correct, or strike them down for honestly crying out to Him.

His shoulders are wide and strong enough to bear the weight of our _____, struggles, and pain.

Some tried to claim Elijah did the first _____ here (note 1 Kings 17:21a).

Purely _____ (up until 1 Kings 17, no one had ever been raised from the dead; Elijah had no _____ to work with).

But Elijah knew who had the _____ of life and death (note 1 Kings 17:21b).

SO WHO'S GOT THIS IN YOUR LIFE?:

- At the beginning of 1 Kings 17, God demonstrated He alone had power over _____.
- At the end of 1 Kings 17, He shows He alone is the Giver of life... (note 1 Kings 17:22-23).
- And this widow moves from acknowledging that Elijah _____ the Lord (note 1 Kings 17:12a)...
- ...to saying 'YES!' to this God and _____ for herself this truth (note 1 Kings 17:24).

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey!

Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital or hard copy).*

**[MyRC.link/connect](https://myrc.link/connect) or text riverside to 94000*



"WHEN YOU NEED HOPE"

Pastor Tom Lundeen

MESSAGE NOTES

Last Sunday we began this new series where our focus is on learning what it means to stand for God and His truth and embrace His mission when everyone and everything around us is standing for anything and everything else but God and His truth.

Note 1 Kings 17:6, 7

When everyone and everything around you is standing for anything and everything else but God and His truth, you need hope.

1. Follow God's Word Even When It's Hard to Understand

(note 1 Kings 17:8-9)

Of any place God could have sent Elijah, He sends him on a 100 mile journey (on foot) to a foreign nation where God and His truth were unknown or rejected, where false religions dominated the culture, and where Elijah would be a "fish out of water".

And who is Elijah to be helped by? A widow!

Note Deuteronomy 15:11

Note 1 Kings 17:12

And God's Word to this widow also seemed ludicrous (note 1 Kings 17:13-14).

Both Elijah (note 1 Kings 7:10a) and this widow (note 1 Kings 17:15a) decide to follow God's Word even when it was hard to understand...

2. Trust God to do What Only He Can Do

Will we actually believe what God has said (not just intellectual assent; note James 2:19)?

Note 1 Kings 17:12, 15-16

3. Honestly Cry Out to God When Life Doesn't Make Sense

Note 1 Kings 17:17-18

Note John 9:1-3

...this widow honestly cried out in her grief, pain, and confusion...

Note 1 Kings 17:19-20

Notice in both the case of the widow and Elijah, God doesn't rebuke, correct, or strike them down for honestly crying out to Him.

His shoulders are wide and strong enough to bear the weight of our questions, struggles, and pain.

Some tried to claim Elijah did the first CPR here (note 1 Kings 17:21a).

Purely symbolic (up until 1 Kings 17, no one had ever been raised from the dead; Elijah had no template to work with).

But Elijah knew who had the power of life and death (note 1 Kings 17:21b).

SO WHO'S GOT THIS IN YOUR LIFE?:

- At the beginning of 1 Kings 17, God demonstrated He alone had power over nature.
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