

Council/Meeting Devotion – February 2016

**Generous People Living God's Love
Through Fearlessness**

Read 1 Kings 17:8-16

Elijah said to her, "Do not be afraid..." (v. 13)

The widow of Zarephath had truly meager resources – “a handful of meal... a little oil... a couple of sticks” – so little that she was expecting that she and her young son would soon die. What a desperate and frightening situation for a young mother!

When Elijah asked her for food, she could have said no, and who would have blamed her? Instead, she pours out her fears of scarcity and death to this messenger of the Lord God, and in return receives the promises of daily bread, life, and salvation. She need not fear anymore!

The widow's response to God's promises is hospitality, sharing what could be her last meal with this stranger who has even less than she does. In her fearless trust and bold generosity, she experiences abundance and new life day by day.

Discussion questions

- What are our fears around “meager” resources?
- How have we experienced God's promises to provide in abundance?
- How might we live differently if we trusted more fully in God's promise to give us “daily bread”?
- In what surprising ways might we be called to use our resources to share the good news of God's salvation in Christ?

Prayer

Lord God, you give us daily bread. Take away the fear we have when we see only meager resources. Open our hearts to fearlessly share and boldly use what you have given us for the sake of the world, trusting in your promises to multiply our offerings and grant abundant life; through your Son Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.