

Week 1. Does God Care?

- Do you sometimes wonder where God is or if he cares about your personal situation?
- Read 2 Kings 4:1-7
- What had the woman in the story lost?
- Where did she look for help?
- How did Elisha respond?
- Why do you think this 'miracle' of God's provision happen behind closed doors?
- Have you ever been in a situation where it felt as if you had been abandoned but God?
- How did your situation resolve? Could you see God at work when you looked back later?
- Can you think of other occasions where God provided very specifically for people in need?

There are comparisons here of Jesus' ministry of provision for those in need.

- How might an understanding of the wider biblical / political context help us trust God?
- Consider what it might be like to live in a country where the rulers / political elite are not providing food, work & security for their people. How would you cope? Who would you look to for help?
- Think of those here in the UK who may be in a similar position. Can you think of any ways in which you can help or work to change things?
- Pray for those in desperate circumstances today. Those who feel that no-one cares and that they have been abandoned by God.



2 Kings

Context : It was not God's idea that the Hebrews have Kings to rule them but they insisted. The idea being that they would represent his Sovereignty. God continues to work out his purposes despite a succession of deeply flawed rulers.

2 Kings 4:1: Debt Slavery. Because of the fragile nature of the environment in much of the ancient Near East, farmers and small landowners often found themselves in debt. Their problems could magnify if a drought and resulting poor harvests continued over more than one year, and they could be forced to sell their land, goods and eventually even their family and themselves into debt slavery.

[IVP Bible Background Commentary via Logos]

