



# Small Group Study Guide for November 11, 2018

*Our Savior Lutheran Church and School*

**Theme:** Everything that we have is a gift from God, and the greatest gift the God gives is his Word. His Word is trustworthy, and he always come through on it. The story of the widow at Zarephath shows this to be true, even though it takes tremendous trust. The widow trusts God's word, and in response feeds Elijah before her son and herself, even though she has only enough for her family. Then they continue to eat for many days!

## **Getting Started:**

1. What does it mean to you to be trustworthy?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What does "stewardship" mean to you?

## **In the Word: 1 Kings 17:8-16**

3. To whom is Elijah sent and where does she live?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Why do you think Elijah told the widow to feed him first?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Has there been a time in your life that you thought you had nothing to give, but were surprised?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. Look at what happens to the widow's son in the following verse (17) and what happens after (22). What lesson is God teaching the widow through this whole section? What is He teaching Elijah?

**Read Mark 12:38-44**

7. What sort of attitude is Jesus condemning in v. 38-40?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. Is Jesus telling us to give away all we have to live on?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. What makes the widow's gift so great?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. Why is the widow's gift an example of good stewardship? How does this contrast with the popular American idea that we should hoard what we have for the future?

**Putting it all Together**

11. What do the widow of Zarephath and the widow in Mark 12 have in common?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
12. Stewardship is about remembering that all you have isn't primarily yours. How can you follow these widows' example in your own stewardship?

**Prayer:** Lord, thank you for the widows into today's readings. Thank you for their example in putting their trust completely in your Word. Help us to follow that example and send your Holy Spirit that our faith might increase, and that we would remember that all we have are gifts from you. Thank you also for your greatest gift to us, your Son Jesus Christ, in whom you fulfilled your promises to your people through the ages. Amen.

**Next Week:** Jesus spoke against outward acts of piety and religion, and pointed to the relationship that God desires to have with us based on love. God's love shown to us in Jesus Christ is what allows us to love God and to love others.