MARK OF A DISCIPLE

Disciples of Christ follow God in the big and small ways (Colossians 3:17).



Outreach Root
Help students understand their God-given mission.

SCRIPTURE

1 KINGS 17:1–16

BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

"Since the founding of the kingdom of Israel in 930 BC the prophets and the kings had been at odds with one another. The king had as his primary goals military security, economic expansion and a higher standard of living for his people. The prophets, on the other hand, were concerned first and foremost about fidelity to Yahweh. They viewed with suspicion the foreign treaties negotiated by the government. The antagonism between the government and prophets reached its climax in the Ahab-Elijah clash."[1]

*Check out the **Teacher Prep Video** for this lesson: https://vimeo.com/1179055708*

FACILITATOR NOTE: We've given you a lot of teaching material. Don't feel like you should cover everything here. You know your group better than anyone. Choose the material that will best fit your students and skip over the rest.

BELONG

PRAYER

1–2 minutes

Start your small group by asking the Lord to bless your discussion and time together.
OPTIONAL: Give students an opportunity to lead the prayer.

OPENING QUESTIONS

3–5 minutes

- How was the week? What's the best thing that's happened? Anything major going on?
- **What's your favorite gift that you have ever received?**

BUILD MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS

BELIEVE

EXPLORE GOD'S WORD

3–5 minutes

This lesson is the third in the "Who's Your Neighbor" series. So far, we have learned that neighbors care, even about others who are not like them. We have also learned that neighbors are proactive in showing grace to others. The background of this lesson is that Israel was suffering from a terrible famine. People were hungry and struggled to find food. Elijah was a prophet who stood boldly for the Lord. God sent him to a widow who would have a chance to trust God and show kindness to Elijah.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

7–10 minutes



- Based on his experience in the wilderness, how might Elijah have convinced the widow to make a meal for him?
  Elijah could have mentioned the miraculous ways in which God had provided for him with ravens and water from the brook.
- Put yourself in the widow's position. What would your answer to Elijah have been?
  Answers will vary. Some may say they would have done what the widow did, while others might have had doubts and sent Elijah to someone else. .
- Who is someone you know who models this kind of trust and giving?
  Answers will vary. To help get the conversation started, come prepared to share about someone who has been an example to you in trust and generosity.
- What are some examples of God's consistent kindness to you?
  Answers will vary. Come prepared to share ways God has been consistently kind to you.
- How does God bless those who trust him enough to give?
  Answers will vary but may include the following: He provides for their needs; he gives a sense of fulfillment; he may send others to bless them, etc.
- Why is trusting God essential for being a good neighbor?
  Answers will vary, but our trust in God is what drives us to follow his example and commands. When we trust in his faithfulness and goodness, we have no need to worry that he won't take care of us when we take care of others.

BECOME

CONNECTION

5–7 minutes

Show your students how Scripture connects to their lives: Use the example below OR share a personal story of someone who gave of a resource they had very little of.



- How would you like to see God use you to bless others, especially when you may feel inadequate to give?
  Answers will vary, but may include giving my time when I'm tired, using the finances that I have to help others, using the talents I have to serve the church in some way, etc.
- How can you push yourself to be generous to others when you think your time, energy, and resources are running low?
  Answers will vary, but include remembering God's goodness to others, remembering God's goodness to you in the past, praying for faith, etc.

MARK OF A DISCIPLE

2–3 minutes

Disciples of Christ follow God in the big and small ways (Colossians 3:17).
Use the Mark of a Disciple to reinforce the lesson and challenge students to apply it to their lives.

APPLY IT

5–10 minutes

How can you give to others this week, even if your time or other resources are limited?

