

Discussion Questions for “Overlooked Wisdom: Raising Hope”
1 Kings 17 (Reading: 17:1-7), Pastor Tom Olson, Weekend of October 11th & 12th

Sermon Outline

God is:

- The Lord of Creation (vv. 1-7)
- The Shepherd of His people (vv. 8-16)
- The Raiser of the dead (vv. 17-24)

Sermon Questions

1. As Pastor Tom shared, Ahab’s worship of Baal (1 Kings 16:29-34) provides a major backdrop to the events of 1 Kings 17. If you were studying the Bible on your own – without the help of a sermon or a LIFE Group – what resources might you use to learn these kinds of helpful background facts? Share resources that have helped you in order to help others!
2. Thinking about God being the Lord of Creation (vv. 1-7)...
 - a. Why is this truth important for the Israelites living under Baal-worshipping King Ahab?
 - b. Why are *you*, personally, grateful for this truth?
3. Read Psalm 19:1-6.
 - a. How can God’s creation help us worship God?
 - b. Have you ever experienced what Psalm 19 is teaching?
4. The shepherding care of God for *Elijah, the widow, and her son* in vv. 8-16 is a remarkable interlude in a book primarily devoted to discussing *kings*. Share 3 or 4 ways that this interlude impacts you.
5. In what ways has God promised to be a *Shepherd* to you and me? (Pastor Tom mentioned Psalm 23 and John 10 in his sermon. Those passages can get you started, but you may have others that come to mind!)
6. Have you ever been able to relate to the widow’s anguish in vv. 17-18?
7. Is there anything we can learn from how Elijah responds to the widow’s anguish in vv. 19-21?
8. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.
 - a. While we are not promised an *earthly resurrection* – like the widow’s son received – what are believers promised?
 - b. 1 Thessalonians 4:18 explains that this truth is meant to be *encouraging*. Why is it encouraging to you?
9. Overall, how does 1 Kings 17 help cultivate *hope* in your life?
10. Any other takeaways from this passage or message?