

## Study Guide & Reflection Questions

### 2 Kings 4:1–7 – Empty Vessels for Miracles

#### STUDY GUIDE

In Lesson 8 of our Summer SURF series, Pastor Niecy shares a powerful message from 2 Kings 4:1–7. We encounter a grieving widow who has lost her husband—a faithful servant of the Lord—and now faces the threat of losing her children to slavery due to debt. Her story reminds us that miracles are still possible for our families—but only with God’s help. ***God uses our emptiness as the starting place for supernatural overflow.***

#### Key Themes:

- Obedience and Instructions
- Family Unity in Crisis
- The Power of the Holy Spirit (Oil)
- Provision in Scarcity
- Healing While Hurting

#### 1. When We Come to the End of Ourselves

- The woman’s loss (husband and provision) left her emotionally and financially empty.
- The widow knew she needed a Word from God to rescue her family crisis...and goes to the man of God: Elisha ...who provided divine instruction and hope.
- Emptiness becomes the setup for the miracle.

#### 2. Obedience Leads to Overflow

- The widow followed Elisha’s instructions, even when they didn’t make logical sense.
- She borrowed vessels from neighbors—symbolizing connection with the wider community (Body of Christ).
- The oil (representing the Holy Spirit) kept flowing until every vessel was filled with some left over to sustain!
  - God will help us OBTAIN – MAINTAIN and SUSTAIN – when we ‘trust and obey’.

#### 3. Everyone in the House Got Involved

- The widow’s sons helped gather vessels and close the door....and neighbors gave the vessels without understanding her ‘why’
- Their unity and teamwork became part of the process of restoration.
- A family miracle happened because the whole house responded in faith.

#### 4. Miracles That Sustain

- The oil not only paid the debt but provided enough to live on.
- God doesn’t just deliver us—He teaches us how to maintain what we receive.
- This is a story of healing and provision while still grieving.

#### 5. Lessons for Today

- It’s okay to admit we’re empty and at our end.
- Instructions from God (even when they don’t make sense) are often the key to breakthrough.
- Invite your family into the healing and rebuilding process.
- The Holy Spirit (oil) is the source—but community support (vessels) is often the method. Fill us Holy Spirit!
- Holding it together while falling apart is real—but God sees and supplies all of our needs -He’s Jehovah Jireh!

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What areas in your life or family feel 'empty' right now? How can that emptiness become a place for God's miracle?
2. Are you following the instructions God has given you—even when they don't make sense?
3. How can you include your family or household in the process of healing, rebuilding, and seeking God's help?
4. What 'vessels' (people, support systems, or resources) has God placed around you that you haven't yet borrowed from or engaged?
5. Have you ever experienced a time when you were holding everything together outwardly, but falling apart inside? How did God meet you there?
6. What does this passage teach you about trusting God to sustain—not just rescue—you and your family?