

**Small Group Discussion Guide**  
**Mother's Day May 8, 2022**  
**Pastor Raphael G Warnock**  
**Sermon Text: II Kings 4:1-7**  
**Sermon Title: "A Mother Trying To Make It"**

**Sermon Summary**

The sermon engages the nearly tragic experience of a financially bankrupt, widow, and single mother who's seeking relief from the Prophet Elisa. Her creditors are threatening to enslave her children if her debt isn't paid. Her faith was grounded in the prophetic anointing based on her deceased husband's work as a prophet and colleague of Elisa.

Ironically, prophets such as Amos, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Malachi spoke on injustices against children and the fatherless; while the same injustices are being worked against the widow and children of a prophet.

Unfortunately, modern-day prophets must continue to remind us such truths as: some who espoused anti-abortion policies are often anti prenatal care, anti-child care and anti-woman's health. Research reveals Black women of all economic statures, receive poorer quality healthcare than their counterparts in America, a land with one the world's greatest healthcare systems.

These facts force us all to ask: "Who will stand up for children and their mothers who are simply just trying to make it?"

Elisa's willingness to help the widow is inspiring; he asked, as should we, to those in need: "What can I do for you?" The widow's need and Elisha's help to her and her children teaches us who are facing challenges what we should do.

**Sermon Points**

1. **Reexamine Our Perspective** - Elisha asked the widow; "what do you have" to pay the debt? She replied "nothing, EXCEPT...oil". She initially didn't see the oil as a financial resource. Elisa helped her to "reexamine her perspective". We must "look inside" to see we have more than we realize.
2. **Recognize Your Need for Partnership** – The widow had oil, her neighbors had vessels. She obeyed the prophet and partnered with her neighbors. She brought vessels into her house. She did not inspect the vessels. She did not criticize the vessels. She simply accepted the vessels. God can use any vessel that's brought into the house. While the first point forces us to look inside; this second point forces us to look outside; to partner with others.
3. **Rely on God's provision** -The widow realized God's provision: as she poured the oil into the vessels the oil continued to pour until her debts were paid; it poured until she was free; until her children were free. When God guides, God will provide.

**Discussion Questions**

1. What challenges do you see against mothers trying to make it?
2. How have you been involved in helping mothers and/or children in need?
3. Share an experience in which you “reexamined your perspective” and discovered new resources.
4. What challenges do you have with partnering with others? How can you overcome them?
5. How confident are you with trusting God’s provisions?
6. How does the sermon challenge your faith?