

“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team
For the week of June 11, 2017

Thanks for God’s Provision (1 Kings 17:15-16)

As Evangel faces change in 2017, we recognize how important prayer has been—and will continue to be—as we participate in the unfolding of God’s plan. Our Touch Points reflections come from “The One Year Book of Praying Through the Bible” by Cheri Fuller (Tyndale, 2003)..

This week’s reflection is an appropriate reminder from Pastor Dave’s series on Elijah, as well as the needs faced by everyone in the days ahead as we seek new places of worship, fellowship and service.

READ: She did as Elijah said, and she and Elijah and her son continued to eat from her supply of flour and oil for many days. For no matter how much they used, there was always enough left in the containers, just as the Lord had promised through Elijah. *1 Kings 17:15-16*

REFLECT: The adventures of Elijah and the widow of Zarepath in 1 Kings 17 show us that God is a God who cares for our physical needs, who keeps his promises, and whose provision is always sufficient. God had sent ravens with bread and meat to Elijah to sustain him, but eventually Kerith Brook had dried up so there was no water, and severe famine had ravaged the land. The widow to whom God send Elijah also faced desperate and uncertain times. She had no bread and was down to her last handful of flour and a bit of oil. But God wasn’t panicked. He had a plan and gave Elijah and the woman instructions that would lead not just to survival for a day but to miraculous provision day after day throughout the famine. As they followed his plan, there was always enough left—just as the Lord had promised. Are you willing to follow God’s leading even when circumstances seem overwhelming and his instructions go against your own instincts.

PRAY: *FATHER, thank you for your constant care and for your plan in uncertain times. It’s so easy to panic and do what seems most reasonable to me rather than to trust you and following your leading in those times. Give me the assurance that your way is best, and remind me of your amazing provision for Elijah and the widow because they followed your way instead of their own.*

QUOTE: There is never panic in heaven! You can only hold on to that reality through faith because it seemed then, and often seems now, as if the devil is the victor. But God is faithful, and his plans never fail! He knows the future. He knows the way. *Corrie Ten Boom*

ADDITIONAL PRAYER PROMPTS

- Use the Pause to Pray as a guide to focus on other concerns through the week. Copies can be found in the lobby and in the Archive section on the website (evbapt.org/archive).
- Reflect on this week’s worship service—the music, Scripture, Pastor Dave’s message* “I Will Follow You” (Matthew 8:18-22)—that all will help as you go through this week; for your own walk with Christ, and that you may be a blessing and witness to people you have contact with during the week.
- Continue to pray for opportunities to invite people to our services and to become engaged in spiritual discovery with the people of Evangel in other ways as well. Ask the Lord to open doors of conversation, connection and compassion with others to enable that engagement this week.
- A positive vote today on the official authorization of the sale to Vineyard Church of Dupage will start the clock on a number of activities required before closing. Pray for successful completion of these as well as organizational details, including new Bylaws to set up the legacy foundation, election of Trustees, and other legal matters. Pray also that, through it all and despite much sadness, in the end there will be a sense of joy in successfully “ending well” and “passing the baton” to Vineyard.

** a podcast and other materials from the service will be posted on the website by Monday.*

Touch Points is e-mailed every Friday, posted on the website (evbapt.org), with printed copies available in the lobby. To be included in the weekly e-mail, use the Contact Us form on the website and request “add me to the Prayer Vigil list.”