

March 6



READ

1 Kings 17:10-16, CEB

Elijah left and went to Zarephath. As he came to the town gate, he saw a widow collecting sticks. He called out to her, "Please get a little water for me in this cup so I can drink." She went to get some water. He then said to her, "Please get me a piece of bread."

"As surely as the Lord your God lives," she replied, "I don't have any food; only a handful of flour in a jar and a bit of oil in a bottle. Look at me. I'm collecting two sticks so that I can make some food for myself and my son. We'll eat the last of the food and then die."

Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid! Go and do what you said. Only make a little loaf of bread for me first. Then bring it to me. You can make something for yourself and your son after that. This is what Israel's God, the Lord, says: The jar of flour won't decrease and the bottle of oil won't run out until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth." The widow went and did what Elijah said. So the widow, Elijah, and the widow's household ate for many days. The jar of flour didn't decrease nor did the bottle of oil run out, just as the Lord spoke through Elijah.

WONDER

- I wonder if it was challenging for the woman to believe Elijah at first.
- I wonder if most people would have listened to Elijah and made him the loaf first.
- What kind of face would you make if Elijah told you to give him the first loaf of bread?
- What emotions do you think the widow had when her flour and oil didn't run out?

PRAY

Loving God, we are so thankful that you hold us in your hands and provide us with everything we need. We thank you for your loving care, even when we may not recognize it because the circumstances are unusual. You are our rock and our solid ground. We love you. Amen.

March 7



READ

Psalm 111:2-5, CEB

The works of the Lord are magnificent;
they are treasured by all who desire them.
God's deeds are majestic and glorious.
God's righteousness stands forever.
God is famous for his wondrous works.
The Lord is full of mercy and compassion.
God gives food to those who honor him.
God remembers his covenant forever.

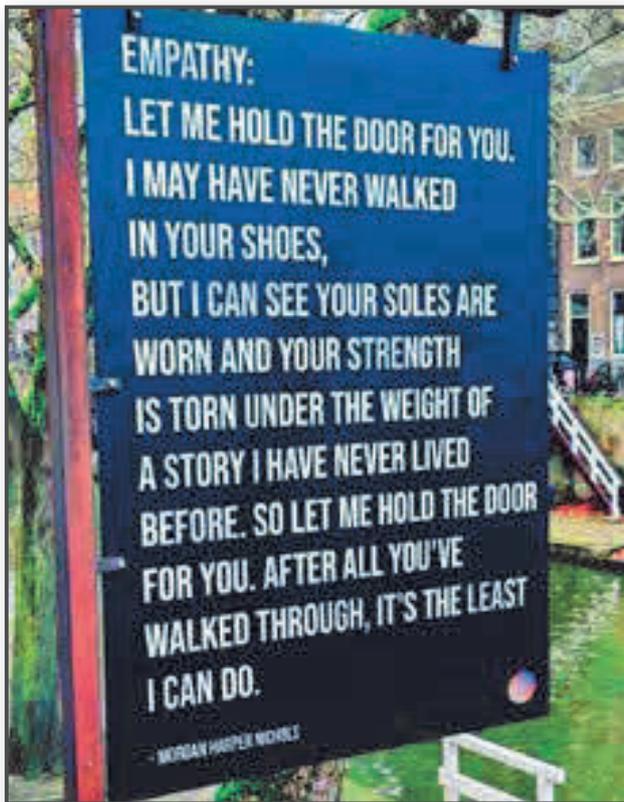
WONDER

- What magnificent works of God can you treasure from your day?
- How have you known God's works of mercy and compassion in your life?
- The Psalms are poetry and include metaphors. What has God provided for you that has fed you, even beyond physical food for nourishment?

PRAY

God of all the details, great and small -- thank you for creating the tiny bits of the world all around us, and thank you for creating the grand picture of your world with the alignment of all those tiny bits. Help us see the world as you do, valuing each part for its contribution and knowing your world is greater than the sum of its parts. In Christ's name I pray, Amen.

March 8



READ

Psalm 111:6-10, CEB

God proclaimed his powerful deeds to his people and gave them what had belonged to other nations. God's handiwork is honesty and justice; all God's rules are trustworthy- they are established always and forever: they are fulfilled with truth and right doing. God sent redemption for his people; and commanded that his covenant last forever. Holy and awesome is God's name! Fear of the LORD is where wisdom begins; sure knowledge is for all who keep God's laws. God's praise lasts forever!

WONDER

- I wonder how we can use our voice to be honest and to seek justice?
- I wonder how we can remember to follow rules?
- I wonder how we can praise God in different ways?
- I wonder what it felt like for the people God gave everything to?
- I wonder what wisdom means to you?

PRAY

God of truth and justice, we praise you for the beauty that surrounds us. Please remind us to use our voice when we see injustice and to find ways to share our love with others. Thank you for reminders that love, grace, wisdom and mercy are gifts you gave to us so we could be more like you here on the Earth. We are so grateful! Amen.

March 9



READ

2 Corinthians 9:6-9, CEB

What I mean is this: the one who sows a small number of seeds will also reap a small crop, and the one who sows a generous amount of seeds will also reap a generous crop.

Everyone should give whatever they have decided in their heart. They shouldn't give with hesitation or because of pressure. God loves a cheerful giver. God has the power to provide you with more than enough of every kind of grace. That way, you will have everything you need always and in everything to provide more than enough for every kind of good work. As it is written, He scattered everywhere; he gave to the needy; his righteousness remains forever.

WONDER

- How is generosity like a seed?
- I wonder how it would feel to freely scatter gifts?
- I wonder how God would feel, seeing everyone freely share with the poor?
- How does generosity provide hope?

PRAY

God, help us to be generous, like you are generous. We pray that the gifts we give will float on the breath of your spirit and land in the life of a person or a community who needs that gift and to feel your presence. Amen.

March 10



READ

2 Corinthians 9:10-13, CEB

The one who supplies seed for planting and bread for eating will supply and multiply your seed and will increase your crop, which is righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous in every way. Such generosity produces thanksgiving to God through us. Your ministry of this service to God's people isn't only fully meeting their needs but it is also multiplying in many expressions of thanksgiving to God. They will give honor to God for your obedience to your confession of Christ's gospel. They will do this because this service provides evidence of your obedience, and because of your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone.

WONDER

- In what ways do you see that you have plenty in your life?
- What does thankfulness have to do with generosity?
- I wonder what radical generosity looks like in your life.

PRAY

God, help us to notice the plenty You have provided. Help us to remember to be thankful. Help us to do good in the world—to be loving, kind, and generous, as You are loving, kind, and generous to us. Amen.

March 11



READ

Matthew 14:13-14, CEB

When Jesus heard about John, he withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself. When the crowds learned this, they followed him on foot from the cities. When Jesus arrived and saw a large crowd, he had compassion for them and healed those who were sick.

WONDER

- I wonder how Jesus felt when he learned of John the Baptist's death.
- I wonder what Jesus was thinking when he saw the large crowds of people.
- Where do you go when you want to be alone?
- Reflect on a time when you showed compassion to others, even when you didn't feel like it?

PRAY

Gracious God, give us peace in times of grief and sadness. Fill us with your love and grace so that we might share it freely with others. Amen.

March 12



READ

Matthew 14:15-21, CEB

That evening his disciples came and said to him, “This is an isolated place and it’s getting late. Send the crowds away so they can go into the villages and buy food for themselves.”

But Jesus said to them, “There’s no need to send them away. You give them something to eat.”

They replied, “We have nothing here except five loaves of bread and two fish.” He said, “Bring them here to me.” He ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. He took the five loaves of bread and the two fish, looked up to heaven, blessed them and broke the loaves apart and gave them to his disciples. Then the disciples gave them to the crowds. Everyone ate until they were full, and they filled twelve baskets with the leftovers. About five thousand men plus women and children had eaten.

WONDER

- How do we consider our blessings as opportunities to create miracles of hope for others?
- How do we learn to trust to hope in the ordinary struggles?
- What items do we consider necessities for ourselves that Jesus is asking us to give to/for others?
- What does generosity look like in March, when there are no holidays to remind us of the needs of others?

PRAY

O Holy and Eternal Provider, where we see the scarcity of hope you see the abundance of your kingdom, and where we would more readily choose the well-worn path of fear you offer us the opportunity to participate in the miraculous work of grace through faith. Teach us this way of hoping and hope-bringing, the way of the one who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. We pray in the name of the Triune God. Amen.