

Finding God's Presence When We Feel His Absence

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. (Romans 8:35, 37)

Session 1: When Our Flame of Faith Flickers

2 Kings 4:1-7

1. How does Jewish tradition identify the widow in the story?
2. An alternative translation for my husband (*2 Kings 4:1*) is _____.
3. What does oil represent in Scripture?
4. As the widow _____, God _____; as she poured _____ into the jars, God poured _____ into her.

5. How can we recover from spiritual burnout?

- _____ our needs to God.

- _____ our resources.

- _____ God's commands.

6. Our _____ to recognize God's presence in no way determines the _____ of his presence.

Discussion Questions

1. Where did the biblical author use the contrasting metaphors of emptiness and fullness in the widow's story? What message did he want to communicate?

2. How did God reverse the widow's honor status? Why was that important?

3. Have you ever felt you lost God? How did you manage your spiritual crisis? How would you characterize your current relationship with him? If there's room for improvement, what is God inviting you to do?

4. Restoration often comes as we focus on the needs of others. Is it possible to do the works of Jesus even when we doubt his presence? How can you reach out to help those who are hurting?