

Hope Presbyterian Church
Sermon-Based Bible Study Group



February 25, 2024

“Serve a Stranger” - #2 in the series *Love God, Neighbor, Enemy*

Texts (NIV): I Kings 17: 8-16; Hebrews 13: 1-2; Matthew 25:35

1. What stood out to you about the message?
2. Ideas about how we relate to strangers may come from our family upbringing, religious traditions, cultural norms, personal experiences, or other influences.
 - How do you respond to these definitions of “stranger”?
 - *An unknown person or one with whom you are unacquainted*
 - *One who does not belong to or is kept from the activities of a group*
3. **Read I Kings 17: 8-12.**
 - What examples of “difference” can we see between Elijah and the widow of Zerephath that show they were indeed strangers to each other?
 - How might Elijah have connected this encounter to his mission to quell the intrusion of the worship of Baal among the Israelites?
4. **Read I Kings 17: 13-16.**
 - What can we learn from Elijah’s instructions and the widow’s response about *how* we should serve a stranger?
 - Imagine a world filled with “widows of Zerephath.” What might life be like if caring for strangers were a priority?
5. Consider the following texts with the story of Elijah and the widow of Zerephath.
 - **Hebrews 13:1-2**
 - *What might showing hospitality to strangers look like?*
 - *What more can we do to serve a stranger at Hope?*
 - **Matthew 25:35**
 - *Have you ever served a stranger in a face-to-face encounter? How did it make you feel?*
 - *Have you ever been served by a stranger? How did it make you feel?*
6. How can we pray for you?