



Elisha and the jars



Why use this Bible study?

This Bible study can help a group to see that many of the resources needed to overcome poverty may exist within the community.



“Your servant has nothing ... except a little oil”

Read 2 Kings 4:1-7. A widow was in great need. Her sons risked being taken as slaves as a means of debt payment. God shows great mercy and grace to the widow. With his help and provision, she is able to use her resources to address her need, and her sons are saved.



Key points

- With God’s help, and if we are willing to share, the resources we have can make a difference in addressing our poverty.



Questions for discussion

- What were the key events in this story?
- Who played what role?
- What were the resources available to the widow and her sons?
- What can we learn from this story which we could apply to how communities can use what they have got to overcome problems of poverty?
- Look at the table below and get the participants to construct their own version, similar to this one. This is a good way to introduce simple planning skills which they can use for planning a church or community project, using their own resources.

The widow's needs	Her resources
Release from inherited debts of her husband Protection of children who could be sold into slavery to pay for debts Future income	Small amount of oil Empty jars Wisdom of Elijah Prayer Family labour



Notes

This Bible study was first published in Tearfund (2009) *Umoja Facilitator's Guide*
<https://learn.tearfund.org/en/themes/church/umoja/>