



A GOD-LIVED LIFE

- A Life of Being a Disciple
- A Life Lived for Others
- *A Life of Hospitality*
- A Life Lived Shrewdly

MONTH 3

A Life of Hospitality

This month, we look at the God-lived life as one that opens our lives to others. As we invite people into our lives and our homes, God gives us opportunities to share Jesus as we build relationships with them.

WEEK 11

Each week in our God-Lived Life Challenge, we'll have a midweek devotion to remind us what it's all about—why we do what we do. This week, we are encouraged to show hospitality trusting in God's promises.

SHE WENT, AND GOD'S PROMISE HELD.

For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: "The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD sends rain on the land." She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family.

1 Kings 17:14-15

The woman was going to stop her generosity after giving Elijah a drink. When he asked for a piece of bread, she put her foot down. She didn't have the resources! She was a widow trying to support her son and coming up short. There had not been rain in years. She looked in her jug and jar and thought, "This is my last meal." There was no way to support anyone else! Then, Elijah shared the Lord's promise that her supply would not run out. And God's promise held true.

In a small town that prided itself in being hospitable and welcoming, a new resident commented, "The people in this town are so friendly. They will give you directions to wherever you want to go, except to their house." Both stories show a common problem. We often keep a short leash on our hospitality. The comfort in God's Word today is that when God wants us to be hospitable to others, he promises to bless our efforts to make them feel welcome and a part of the family of Christ.

Scripture contains many examples of Jesus taking time to eat, converse, and even invite himself into the homes of others, whether Pharisee, tax collector, or disciple. Jesus didn't just perfectly model hospitality, he credits us with his perfect record before our Father in heaven. Where we have fallen short, closed our hearts, and put our love on ice, Jesus welcomed the cross so we would be welcome in heaven. Jesus' life, death, and resurrection prove God loves you. And he loves it when you are hospitable to others.

Paul said, "You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God" (1 Corinthians 9). God will give you the courage to be hospitable, to keep your foot from slamming down or your heart from closing toward others. His love and his promise to take care of us won't fail.

So go with your jar and jug of hospitality. God's promise will hold.