

# PULPIT COMPANION

---

WHAT DO WE  
DO WHEN OUR  
BROOK DRIES  
UP?

---

1 KING 17:1-16

---

PASTOR WAYNE JACKSON



**AUGUST 3, 2025**

**09:45 AM**

1811 S. 7TH STREET, SAN JOSE, CA

[WWW.MARANATHACC.COM](http://WWW.MARANATHACC.COM)

W

E

L

D

N



In this powerful message, we're challenged to confront the reality of our 'dry brooks' - those moments when our expectations are shattered and our resources seem depleted.

Through the story of Elijah at the Brook Cherith, we learn that God sometimes allows our familiar sources of provision to run dry to move us toward greater spiritual growth. The key lesson here is that when God closes one door, He opens another - often in unexpected ways. We're encouraged to 'step up, step out, and step in' when faced with challenges, trusting that God's resources are beyond what we can see or experience.

This message reminds us that our setbacks are often set-ups for God's greater purpose in our lives and in the lives of those around us.

### **SCRIPTURES FROM PULPIT AI**

- 1 Kings 17:1-4 (Elijah prophesies drought and is sent to the brook Cherith)
- 1 Kings 17:5-16 (Elijah at the brook Cherith and with the widow at Zarephath)
- Psalm 37:25 ("I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread.")
- Genesis 1 (Creation account, "Let there be...")
- Philippians 3:13 ("Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead")
- Mark 2 (Story of the paralyzed man lowered through the roof)





## DEVOTIONAL

### Day 1: Trusting God When Resources Run Dry

#### Reading: 1 Kings 17:1-16

**Devotional:** Elijah's experience at the Brook Cherith teaches us that God's provision may come in unexpected ways and that His plans often involve moving us out of our comfort zones. When the brook dried up, Elijah had to trust God's next directive. In our lives, we may face situations where our usual sources of support or security run dry. This is an invitation to deepen our faith and look to God for new directions.

Reflect on a time when your "brook" dried up. How did God provide in unexpected ways? Today, practice stepping out in faith, trusting that God's resources are beyond what we can see or experience.

### Day 2: Overcoming Hopelessness with God's Promises

#### Reading: Romans 15:13, Jeremiah 29:11-13

**Devotional:** The widow of Zarephath was ready to give up, seeing no hope beyond her last meal. Yet God sent Elijah with a message of miraculous provision. Often, we too can become fixated on our limited resources or bleak circumstances, losing sight of God's limitless power to provide and transform our situations.

God's promises are not bound by our current realities. Take time today to write down promises from Scripture that speak to your current struggles. Pray for the faith to believe these promises, even when circumstances seem dire.

### Day 3: Being God's Instrument of Hope

#### Reading: 2 Corinthians 1:3-7, Galatians 6:2

**Devotional:** Elijah became God's instrument to bring hope and life to the widow and her son. Similarly, we are called to be conduits of God's love and hope to those around us. Sometimes, this may be as simple as letting someone know we're praying for them or offering a word of encouragement.

Who in your life might be losing hope? How can you be God's instrument to bring encouragement or practical help to them today? Remember, your presence can be more powerful than words.





## Day 4: Stepping Up and Stepping Out in Faith

**Reading:** Hebrews 11:1-6, James 2:14-17

**Devotional:** When God called Elijah to leave the brook and go to Zarephath, it required faith to step out into the unknown. Our faith grows when we act on God's promptings, even when we don't have all the details. God often reveals His plan one step at a time, requiring us to trust Him continually.

Is there an area in your life where God is calling you to step out in faith? What's holding you back? Take a small step of obedience today, trusting that God will provide what you need as you move forward.

## Day 5: God's Presence in Our Suffering

**Reading:** Psalm 23, Romans 8:35-39

**Devotional:** The drought that caused Elijah's brook to dry up and threatened the widow's life reminds us that followers of God are not exempt from suffering. However, God's presence remains constant in our trials. He uses these experiences to deepen our faith, reveal His power, and often to position us to help others.

Reflect on a difficult season in your life. How did you experience God's presence? How did that experience equip you to help others? Thank God for His faithfulness in past trials and entrust your current struggles to His care, knowing that nothing can separate you from His love.







## SMALL GROUP GUIDE : “When Your Brook Dries Up”

### Opening Prayer:

Begin the session with a prayer, asking God for guidance and insight as you discuss the sermon's message.

### Key Scripture:

### Discussion Questions:

- 1.The sermon mentions the book "Who Moved My Cheese?" How do you typically react when your expectations are not met or when change occurs unexpectedly in your life?
- 2.Elijah's brook dried up, forcing him to move. Can you share a time when a "dry brook" in your life led to personal growth or new opportunities?
- 3.The sermon emphasizes the importance of "stepping up." What does this look like in your daily life? What obstacles might prevent you from stepping up when God calls?
- 4.How can we discern between times when God wants us to be content where we are and times when He's calling us to move or change?
- 5.The widow in the story couldn't see life beyond her current circumstances. Have you ever felt this way? How did you overcome it?
- 6.The pastor suggests that our presence can be more important than our words when supporting others. How can we practically "stand in" for others during their difficult times?
- 7.What does it mean to you to "trust in God's provision"? How can we cultivate this trust, especially when facing scarcity or challenges?





### **Practical Applications:**

1. This week, practice "stepping in" for someone in need. Offer a simple "I'm praying for you" to a colleague or friend going through a tough time.
2. Reflect on areas in your life where you might have become complacent. Is there a "dry brook" God might be using to move you?
3. Make a list of times God has provided for you in unexpected ways. Use this as a reminder when facing new challenges.
4. Consider ways you can use your gifts or experiences to help others, just as Elijah helped the widow.
5. Practice trusting God in small daily matters this week, as a way to build faith for bigger challenges.

### **Key Takeaways:**

1. God sometimes moves us to improve us.
2. When faced with challenges, we need to step up, step out, and step in.
3. Our presence and support can be more impactful than our words.
4. God's resources are beyond what we can see or experience.
5. Trust in God's provision, even when the situation seems hopeless.

### **Closing Prayer:**

Thank God for being our strong tower and ask for His help in living out the truths discussed.

