

“Take time to get to know one another, and set a fun, welcoming atmosphere.”

Ice Breaker:

Refer to the Oasis Church Website (oasistx.org/groups) under Group Resources and select an Ice Breaker Idea that you prefer to use for your Connect Group fellowship.

SCRIPTURES: Open your Bible and follow along as we read the Scriptures for our discussion.

1 Kings 17:17-24, *“Now it happened after these things that the son of the woman who owned the house became sick. And his sickness was so serious that there was no breath left in him. So she said to Elijah, ‘What have I to do with you, O man of God? Have you come to me to bring my sin to remembrance, and to kill my son?’ And he said to her, ‘Give me your son.’ So he took him out of her arms and carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his own bed. Then he cried out to the Lord and said, ‘O Lord my God, have You also brought tragedy on the widow with whom I lodge, by killing her son?’ And he stretched himself out on the child three times, and cried out to the Lord and said, ‘O Lord my God, I pray, let this child’s soul come back to him.’ Then the Lord heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came back to him, and he revived. And Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper room into the house, and gave him to his mother. And Elijah said, ‘See, your son lives!’ Then the woman said to Elijah, ‘Now by this I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is the truth.’”*

It's interesting how in Scripture you often see how God pushed people to stretch their faith to another level. Such was the case in this familiar story. Let us examine how we must deal with being stretched.

Question: When pressure comes upon you, do you feel stressed, or do you feel stretched?

The woman in our narrative was probably feeling stressed, when God was really trying to stretch her faith.

When things get uncomfortable it doesn't mean God is punishing you, He may be just pushing you, stretching you.

Question: How do you feel when a demand is made of you that you feel you just can't handle?

Stress is pressure that can break you but stretching is pressure that expands you.

Stretching shows you had more capacity than you thought.

Question: Do you know your breaking point of pressure?

Stretching is pressure than expands you.

- Stress is pressure that breaks you, God is not trying to break you.

Question: Are you ready to stretch so God can do more with you?

Question: How do you allow God to stretch you?

The stretching process begins by taking your problems/concerns to an upper room.

Question: What does stretching allow in your life?

Stretching should cause you to not see your problems. It should allow you to only see faith.

CONCLUSION

- If you haven't stretched, stop waiting on God to do something. He's waiting on you to stretch.
- Don't stop after the first stretch if you see no results. Just keep on stretching.
- Sometimes we may have to stretch as many as 3 times. We just must keep believing, and risk it one more time – stretch again.

CALL TO ACTION

Over the week, Pray and ask God to reveal to you where you need to be stretched to cause an increase in your faith. Search your heart for what the Lord is speaking to you regarding the Oasis's year-end giving. If you fell short of what the Lord has spoken to you; repent, ask for forgiveness, and just simply be obedience.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Please check the Oasis Church website for the latest announcements.

Reminder for Leader: Please remember to take attendance for your group and enter it into the planning center promptly.