Mothers' Union Listening, Observing, Acting (MULOA)
Elisha and the widow Bible study

Objective: to see that God wants to use us and our resources to bring about transformation in our own lives and the life of our community.

Guiding questions:

1. *What needs and available resources did the widow have?*
2. *How did Elisha respond to her? What did he tell her to do? Why do you think that was important?*
3. *What can we learn from this story about how God works? When did the miracle happen?*
4. *To what extent was the change created lasting? What helped to make it lasting?*
5. *Imagine you are the widow: what resources do we have that we can put in God's hands?*
6. *Imagine you are Elisha: what can we learn that we can apply to working with communities?*

2 Kings 4:1-7 (NIV)

The wife of a man from the company of the prophets cried out to Elisha, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that he revered the LORD. But now his creditor is coming to take my two boys as his slaves."

2 Elisha replied to her, "How can I help you? Tell me, what do you have in your house?"

"Your servant has nothing there at all," she said, "except a small jar of olive oil."

3 Elisha said, "Go around and ask all your neighbours for empty jars. Don't ask for just a few. 4 Then go inside and shut the door behind you and your sons. Pour oil into all the jars, and as each is filled, put it to one side."

5 She left him and shut the door behind her and her sons. They brought the jars to her and she kept pouring. 6 When all the jars were full, she said to her son, "Bring me another one."

But he replied, "There is not a jar left." Then the oil stopped flowing.

7 She went and told the man of God, and he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debts. You and your sons can live on what is left."

Process:

1. **Reading:** Pray for the Holy Spirit to open our hearts as well as minds to hear what he is saying to us through this story. One person in your group could read the Bible passage above slowly and with emotion. Then read the story again individually.
2. **Discuss in the group** the guiding questions, leaving plenty of time to reflect on the last two.
3. **Agree the main learning:** Pray together for God to highlight the main messages he wants to leave with you. Find a way to capture those in a visual form on flip chart.