1. My name means "Yahweh is my God," and I revived a dead widow’s son in Zarephath. Who am I?
   a. Elijah
   b. Elisha
   c. Isaiah

2. What is "the pit" in Psalm 30?
   a. the place of the dead
   b. a state of depression
   c. a place for lepers

3. According to the psalmist, “For divine ____ lasts but a moment; divine favor lasts a lifetime.”
   a. justice
   b. anger
   c. forgiveness

4. From whom did Paul receive his power to preach?
   a. the apostles
   b. Jesus Christ
   c. the Christian Community

5. Paul claimed that in his former life he was a zealous Jew.
   a. True
   b. False

6. According to St. Luke, whose young son was raised from the dead by Jesus?
   a. the widow of Nain
   b. Martha
   c. the woman at the well

7. According to St. Luke, what was the reaction of the crowd to the raising of the widow’s son?
   a. anger
   b. confusion
   c. fear
Reflection and Discussion

As the Church enters this Sunday into the liturgical season of Ordinary Time, the Scripture readings present no ordinary situation, whether it’s the Prophet Elijah raising the dead son of the widow of Zarephath or Jesus raising the only son of the widow of Nain. These were extraordinary occurrences that restored life not just to the young men, but also to their widowed mothers who were the intended recipients of God’s loving mercy. To have such an unbelievable restoration of one’s only son back to life, begs for a follow up story of whatever happened to these incredible individuals who experienced such a transforming event? The Scriptures don’t specifically say what happened to these two widows after their young sons were miraculously restored to life. However, the follow up story may be the narrative of Jesus, God’s only son raised to life, and now available and living among us providing his presence and sustenance for our lives.

• A widow was a person who was very vulnerable in a culture that relied on men to provide for food and security to sustain physical livelihood. Upon whom do you rely for your physical wellbeing?
• Do you see yourself as independent and self-sufficient? Where are you most vulnerable in your life?
• Can you name the various means of support that you have in your life whether physical, emotional, financial or spiritual? Who are the significant others in your life who support and sustain you?
• How do you personally experience the power of God in your life? Do you appreciate that there is nothing that can separate you from the power of God’s mercy - neither death, nor addiction, divorce, illness, poverty nor evil or sin of any kind?

The follow up to the stories of the vulnerable widows from the Scriptures is being told through the living out of our own lives that have been beneficiaries of the powerful restoration, healing and loving mercy of God.

Answers and References

1. a. Elijah (1 Kings 17:17-24)
2. a. the place of the dead (Psalm 30:4)
3. b. anger (Psalm 30:6)
4. b. Jesus Christ (Galatians 1:11-12)
5. a. True (Galatians 1:13-14)
6. a. the widow of Nain (Luke 7:11-17)
7. c. fear (Luke 7:16)