

The lives of Elijah & Elisha

FAITHFUL LIVING IN FALTERING TIMES

BOOK 2



Bethany

*Scripture
Notes
Questions
Prayer
More!*

SERIES GUIDE PART II



We thank God for the fellowship that Bethany Baptist Church and Grace Baptist Church have together! We proclaim the same Jesus and we share the same passion for His Gospel. One new connection between our churches is this preaching series on the lives of Elijah and Elisha. Let us pray for our shared faith and fellowship to grow deeper as the result of hearing the same holy scriptures proclaimed week-by-week. May the Lord be glorified through our relationship with each other!



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HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Our hope is that each week you will bring this guide with you. It's a way to dive deeper into the sermon through studying the passage before service, taking notes and reflections during the service, then using the questions to discuss the sermon with your community group.

It's a way to keep your group in sync, help you unlock new riches of God's word, and help you focus on what the Spirit may be calling you to do this week. We've also added some space for a prayer journal. Use this journal in your community group to remember and pray for your group throughout the week, or use it for other friends and family at Bethany.

As we study God's word, our love for Christ grows greater each day. This is just another simple tool to help you study God's word in new and God-honoring ways, as well as to connect to Scripture together with your community group.

Week 1

THE SUCCESSION

2 KINGS 2:15-25

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WEEK 1

2 KINGS 2:15-25

¹⁵Now when the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho saw him opposite them, they said, “The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha.” And they came to meet him and bowed to the ground before him. ¹⁶And they said to him, “Behold now, there are with your servants fifty strong men. Please let them go and seek your master. It may be that the Spirit of the Lord has caught him up and cast him upon some mountain or into some valley.” And he said, “You shall not send.” ¹⁷But when they urged him till he was ashamed, he said, “Send.” They sent therefore fifty men. And for three days they sought him but did not find him. ¹⁸And they came back to him while he was staying at Jericho, and he said to them, “Did I not say to you, ‘Do not go’?”

¹⁹Now the men of the city said to Elisha, “Behold, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my lord sees, but the water is bad, and the land is unfruitful.” ²⁰He said, “Bring me a new bowl, and put salt in it.” So they brought it to him. ²¹Then he went to the spring of water and threw salt in it and said, “Thus says the Lord, I have healed this water; from now on neither death nor miscarriage shall come from it.” ²²So the water has been healed to this day, according to the word that Elisha spoke.

²³He went up from there to Bethel, and while he was going up on the way, some small boys came out of the city and jeered at him, saying, “Go up, you baldhead! Go up, you baldhead!” ²⁴And he turned around, and when he saw them, he cursed them in the name of the Lord. And two she-bears came out of the woods and tore forty-two of the boys. ²⁵From there he went on to Mount Carmel, and from there he returned to Samaria.

NOTES

WEEK 1: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ICEBREAKER QUESTION

What makes succession or leadership change such a difficult thing for people accept?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What just happened in the previous section (2 Kings 2:1-14)?

Why do the people want to go looking for Elijah?

What is the significance of the miracles Elisha performs in this chapter? (Read Ex 15:22-26; Lev 26:22; Joshua 6:26; 1 Kings 16:34)

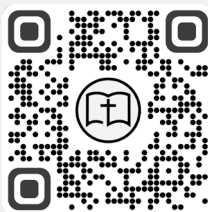
APPLICATION QUESTIONS

When and why are we tempted to couple God's power to a particular means (person, ministry, song, time period, etc) rather than to God himself? What is the rhetorical answer to the question "Where is the God of Elijah?"

What does this passage teach us about proper respect for the power of God's word to bring healing or harm?

NEXT STEP OPPORTUNITY

Pray for your leaders and send one encouragement.



Week 2

THE ALLIANCE

2 KINGS 3:1-27

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WEEK 2

2 KINGS 3:1-27

¹In the eighteenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, Jehoram the son of Ahab became king over Israel in Samaria, and he reigned twelve years. ²He did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, though not like his father and mother, for he put away the pillar of Baal that his father had made. ³Nevertheless, he clung to the sin of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin; he did not depart from it. ⁴Now Mesha king of Moab was a sheep breeder, and he had to deliver to the king of Israel 100,000 lambs and the wool of 100,000 rams. ⁵But when Ahab died, the king of Moab rebelled against the king of Israel. ⁶So King Jehoram marched out of Samaria at that time and mustered all Israel. ⁷And he went and sent word to Jehoshaphat king of Judah: “The king of Moab has rebelled against me. Will you go with me to battle against Moab?” And he said, “I will go. I am as you are, my people as your people, my horses as your horses.” ⁸Then he said, “By which way shall we march?” Jehoram answered, “By the way of the wilderness of Edom.” ⁹So the king of Israel went with the king of Judah and the king of Edom. And when they had made a circuitous march of seven days, there was no water for the army or for the animals that followed them. ¹⁰Then the king of Israel said, “Alas! The Lord has called these three kings to give them into the hand of Moab.” ¹¹And Jehoshaphat said, “Is there no prophet of the Lord here, through whom we may inquire of the Lord?” Then one of the king of Israel’s servants answered, “Elisha the son of Shaphat is here, who poured water on the hands of Elijah.” ¹²And Jehoshaphat said, “The word of the Lord is with him.” So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat and the king of Edom went down to him. ¹³And Elisha said to the king of Israel, “What have I to do with you? Go to the prophets of your father and to the prophets of your mother.” But the king of Israel said to him, “No; it is the Lord who has called these three kings to give them into the hand of Moab.” ¹⁴And Elisha said, “As the Lord of hosts lives, before whom I stand, were it not that I have regard for Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, I would neither look at you nor see you. ¹⁵But now bring me a musician.” And when the musician played, the hand of the Lord came upon him. ¹⁶And he said, “Thus says the Lord, ‘I will make this dry streambed full of pools.’ ¹⁷For thus says the Lord, ‘You shall not see wind or rain, but that streambed shall be filled with water, so that you shall drink, you, your livestock, and your animals.’ [Continued].

NOTES

WEEK 2: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ICEBREAKER QUESTION

Have you ever been on a trip where you lacked critical provisions (food, water, sunscreen, fuel, etc)?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What examples of compromise are clear from the beginning of this story?

What does this passage teach us about why we might sometimes be slow to seek help from God?

What does this passage teach us about God's ability to provide and rescue in ways we would never expect?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

What makes it so easy to settle for a little compromise in our lives?

In what ways are we tempted to do things on our own without looking for direction and help from God?

NEXT STEP OPPORTUNITY

Give towards our compassion fund and help those in need.



Week 3

THE PROVISION

2 KINGS 4:1-7

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WEEK 3

2 KINGS 4:1-7

¹Now the wife of one of the sons of the prophets cried to Elisha, “Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the Lord, but the creditor has come to take my two children to be his slaves.” ²And Elisha said to her, “What shall I do for you? Tell me; what have you in the house?” And she said, “Your servant has nothing in the house except a jar of oil.” ³Then he said, “Go outside, borrow vessels from all your neighbors, empty vessels and not too few. ⁴Then go in and shut the door behind yourself and your sons and pour into all these vessels. And when one is full, set it aside.” ⁵So she went from him and shut the door behind herself and her sons. And as she poured they brought the vessels to her. ⁶When the vessels were full, she said to her son, “Bring me another vessel.” And he said to her, “There is not another.” Then the oil stopped flowing. ⁷She came and told the man of God, and he said, “Go, sell the oil and pay your debts, and you and your sons can live on the rest.”

NOTES

WEEK 3: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ICEBREAKER QUESTION

Can you share a time when you truly needed help from others?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Why did Elisha respond to the desperate widow by asking her what she had? What New Testament passage describes a similar kind of question and miracle?

What kind of faith was Elisha encouraging in the widow by telling her to borrow vessels?

Why did Elisha ask her to shut the door when beginning to pour?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Where in your life is it most difficult to trust God to provide enough to meet your needs (whether in something material/physical or immaterial/emotional/relational/spiritual)?

What steps might God be asking you to take to exercise your faith this week?this next week?

Week 4

THE GIFT

2 KINGS 4:8-17

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WEEK 4

2 KINGS 4:8-17

⁸One day Elisha went on to Shunem, where a wealthy woman lived, who urged him to eat some food. So whenever he passed that way, he would turn in there to eat food. ⁹And she said to her husband, “Behold now, I know that this is a holy man of God who is continually passing our way. ¹⁰Let us make a small room on the roof with walls and put there for him a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp, so that whenever he comes to us, he can go in there.” ¹¹One day he came there, and he turned into the chamber and rested there. ¹²And he said to Gehazi his servant, “Call this Shunammite.” When he had called her, she stood before him. ¹³And he said to him, “Say now to her, ‘See, you have taken all this trouble for us; what is to be done for you? Would you have a word spoken on your behalf to the king or to the commander of the army?’ ” She answered, “I dwell among my own people.” ¹⁴And he said, “What then is to be done for her?” Gehazi answered, “Well, she has no son, and her husband is old.” ¹⁵He said, “Call her.” And when he had called her, she stood in the doorway. ¹⁶And he said, “At this season, about this time next year, you shall embrace a son.” And she said, “No, my lord, O man of God; do not lie to your servant.” ¹⁷But the woman conceived, and she bore a son about that time the following spring, as Elisha had said to her.

WEEK 4: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ICEBREAKER QUESTION

Do you have any encouraging stories about hospitality that you can share?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What kind of intention was required from the Shunamite woman for her to show hospitality?

What motivated hospitality in this context?

How did the woman respond to the unexpected promise of God's grace?

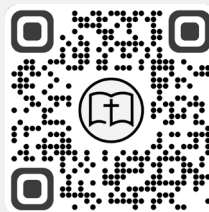
APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Where might God be calling you to show more intention in ministry?

What can you do this week to truly live out the principle it is “more blessed to give than receive”?

NEXT STEP OPPORTUNITY

Sign up to serve in our hospitality and welcome ministries.



Week 5

THE REVIVAL

2 KINGS 4:18-37

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WEEK 5

2 KINGS 4:18-37

¹⁸When the child had grown, he went out one day to his father among the reapers. ¹⁹And he said to his father, "Oh, my head, my head!" The father said to his servant, "Carry him to his mother." ²⁰And when he had lifted him and brought him to his mother, the child sat on her lap till noon, and then he died. ²¹And she went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God and shut the door behind him and went out. ²²Then she called to her husband and said, "Send me one of the servants and one of the donkeys, that I may quickly go to the man of God and come back again." ²³And he said, "Why will you go to him today? It is neither new moon nor Sabbath." She said, "All is well." ²⁴Then she saddled the donkey, and she said to her servant, "Urge the animal on; do not slacken the pace for me unless I tell you." ²⁵So she set out and came to the man of God at Mount Carmel. When the man of God saw her coming, he said to Gehazi his servant, "Look, there is the Shunammite. ²⁶Run at once to meet her and say to her, 'Is all well with you? Is all well with your husband? Is all well with the child?' " And she answered, "All is well." ²⁷And when she came to the mountain to the man of God, she caught hold of his feet. And Gehazi came to push her away. But the man of God said, "Leave her alone, for she is in bitter distress, and the Lord has hidden it from me and has not told me." ²⁸Then she said, "Did I ask my lord for a son? Did I not say, 'Do not deceive me?'" ²⁹He said to Gehazi, "Tie up your garment and take my staff in your hand and go. If you meet anyone, do not greet him, and if anyone greets you, do not reply. And lay my staff on the face of the child." ³⁰Then the mother of the child said, "As the Lord lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So he arose and followed her. ³¹Gehazi went on ahead and laid the staff on the face of the child, but there was no sound or sign of life. Therefore he returned to meet him and told him, "The child has not awakened." ³²When Elisha came into the house, he saw the child lying dead on his bed. ³³So he went in and shut the door behind the two of them and prayed to the Lord. ³⁴Then he went up and lay on the child, putting his mouth on his mouth, his eyes on his eyes, and his hands on his hands. And as he stretched himself upon him, the flesh of the child became warm. ³⁵Then he got up again and walked once back and forth in the house, and went up and stretched himself upon him. The child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes. ³⁶Then he summoned Gehazi and said, "Call this Shunammite." So he called her. And when she came to him, he said, "Pick up your son." [Continued]

NOTES

WEEK 5: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ICEBREAKER QUESTION

What gifts has God given you that you most fear Him taking away?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What kinds of deep trials do we sometimes imagine God's people should be immune from?

What does Elisha's treatment of the widow in her initial response to this deep tragedy teach us about God?

To what extent does Elisha expend himself before the child is brought back to life? What are we to learn from this?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

How can trials — whether in our own life or others' lives — deepen our faith?

What current trials or fears might be exposing the limits of your willingness to exercise faith in God's goodness?

NEXT STEP OPPORTUNITY

Take the step of baptism by publicly declaring Jesus is your Lord.



Week 6

THE PRESERVATION

2 KINGS 4:38-44

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WEEK 6

2 KINGS 4:38-44

³⁸And Elisha came again to Gilgal when there was a famine in the land. And as the sons of the prophets were sitting before him, he said to his servant, “Set on the large pot, and boil stew for the sons of the prophets.” ³⁹One of them went out into the field to gather herbs, and found a wild vine and gathered from it his lap full of wild gourds, and came and cut them up into the pot of stew, not knowing what they were. ⁴⁰And they poured out some for the men to eat. But while they were eating of the stew, they cried out, “O man of God, there is death in the pot!” And they could not eat it. ⁴¹He said, “Then bring flour.” And he threw it into the pot and said, “Pour some out for the men, that they may eat.” And there was no harm in the pot.

⁴²A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing the man of God bread of the firstfruits, twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. And Elisha said, “Give to the men, that they may eat.” ⁴³But his servant said, “How can I set this before a hundred men?” So he repeated, “Give them to the men, that they may eat, for thus says the Lord, ‘They shall eat and have some left.’” ⁴⁴So he set it before them. And they ate and had some left, according to the word of the Lord.

NOTES

WEEK 6: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ICEBREAKER QUESTION

What's the worst meal you've ever eaten (food poisoning stories count)?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What does this passage teach about earthly consequences that can affect others due to honest mistakes?

What challenges brought on by broader disobedience or sin does this passage teach us to expect during hard times? What provisions?

What is the significance of the leftovers? Does this passage bring any New Testament passages to mind?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

What “mundane” earthly concerns are you tempted to believe that God doesn't care about and can't help? What would it look like for you to pray to Him about those?

Where have you placed limits in your mind in terms of God's ability to provide? What would it look like for you to pray boldly?

NEXT STEP OPPORTUNITY

Share a prayer request for an unbeliever whom you long to see come to know Jesus.



Week 7

THE LEPER

2 KINGS 5:1-14

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WEEK 7

2 KINGS 5:1-14

¹Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master and in high favor, because by him the Lord had given victory to Syria. He was a mighty man of valor, but he was a leper. ²Now the Syrians on one of their raids had carried off a little girl from the land of Israel, and she worked in the service of Naaman's wife. ³She said to her mistress, "Would that my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." ⁴So Naaman went in and told his lord, "Thus and so spoke the girl from the land of Israel." ⁵And the king of Syria said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel."

So he went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothing. ⁶And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you Naaman my servant, that you may cure him of his leprosy." ⁷And when the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Only consider, and see how he is seeking a quarrel with me."

⁸But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent to the king, saying, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come now to me, that he may know that there is a prophet in Israel."

⁹So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and stood at the door of Elisha's house. ¹⁰And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean." ¹¹But Naaman was angry and went away, saying, "Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call upon the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper.

¹²Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage. ¹³But his servants came near and said to him, "My father, it is a great word the prophet has spoken to you; will you not do it? Has he actually said to you, 'Wash, and be clean?'" ¹⁴So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God, and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

NOTES

WEEK 7: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ICEBREAKER QUESTION

Do you think major success or major suffering makes people harder to reach with the gospel?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

How is God's providence on display in this story?

What is the significance of the expression of faith that Elisha asks Namaan to show?

What drives Namaan's response to Elisha and how do his servants appeal to him?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

In what ways might we be tempted to rush to meet people's material needs without allowing them to express spiritual faith?

What simple steps of faith might God be asking you to take (Bible reading, prayer, etc) that you are sometimes tempted to doubt as being impactful?

Week 8

THE REACTION

2 KINGS 5:15-27

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WEEK 8

2 KINGS 5:15-27

¹⁵Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and he came and stood before him. And he said, "Behold, I know that there is no God in all the earth but in Israel; so accept now a present from your servant." ¹⁶But he said, "As the Lord lives, before whom I stand, I will receive none." And he urged him to take it, but he refused. ¹⁷Then Naaman said, "If not, please let there be given to your servant two mule loads of earth, for from now on your servant will not offer burnt offering or sacrifice to any god but the Lord. ¹⁸In this matter may the Lord pardon your servant: when my master goes into the house of Rimmon to worship there, leaning on my arm, and I bow myself in the house of Rimmon, when I bow myself in the house of Rimmon, the Lord pardon your servant in this matter." ¹⁹He said to him, "Go in peace." But when Naaman had gone from him a short distance, ²⁰Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said, "See, my master has spared this Naaman the Syrian, in not accepting from his hand what he brought. As the Lord lives, I will run after him and get something from him." ²¹So Gehazi followed Naaman. And when Naaman saw someone running after him, he got down from the chariot to meet him and said, "Is all well?" ²²And he said, "All is well. My master has sent me to say, 'There have just now come to me from the hill country of Ephraim two young men of the sons of the prophets. Please give them a talent of silver and two changes of clothing.' " ²³And Naaman said, "Be pleased to accept two talents." And he urged him and tied up two talents of silver in two bags, with two changes of clothing, and laid them on two of his servants. And they carried them before Gehazi. ²⁴And when he came to the hill, he took them from their hand and put them in the house, and he sent the men away, and they departed. ²⁵He went in and stood before his master, and Elisha said to him, "Where have you been, Gehazi?" And he said, "Your servant went nowhere." ²⁶But he said to him, "Did not my heart go when the man turned from his chariot to meet you? Was it a time to accept money and garments, olive orchards and vineyards, sheep and oxen, male servants and female servants? ²⁷Therefore the leprosy of Naaman shall cling to you and to your descendants forever." So he went out from his presence a leper, like snow.

NOTES

WEEK 8: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ICEBREAKER QUESTION

When was the last time you were proven wrong?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What is the significance of Namaan's request from Elisha regarding worship?

What is the significance of Elisha's refusal to receive Namaan's gifts?

Why is the consequence of Gehazi's sin so severe?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Where is a wholehearted commitment to the worship of God most tested in your life?

In what ways are you tempted to minimize the consequences of sin and overlook the effect your sin has upon the reputation of God?

NEXT STEP OPPORTUNITY

Join the community here at Bethany. Sign up for a membership class.



Week 9

THE REVELATION

2 KINGS 6:1-7:2

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WEEK 9

2 KINGS 6:1-7:2

¹Now the sons of the prophets said to Elisha, “See, the place where we dwell under your charge is too small for us. ²Let us go to the Jordan and each of us get there a log, and let us make a place for us to dwell there.” And he answered, “Go.” ³Then one of them said, “Be pleased to go with your servants.” And he answered, “I will go.” ⁴So he went with them. And when they came to the Jordan, they cut down trees. ⁵But as one was felling a log, his axe head fell into the water, and he cried out, “Alas, my master! It was borrowed.” ⁶Then the man of God said, “Where did it fall?” When he showed him the place, he cut off a stick and threw it in there and made the iron float. ⁷And he said, “Take it up.” So he reached out his hand and took it. ⁸Once when the king of Syria was warring against Israel, he took counsel with his servants, saying, “At such and such a place shall be my camp.” ⁹But the man of God sent word to the king of Israel, “Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Syrians are going down there.” ¹⁰And the king of Israel sent to the place about which the man of God told him. Thus he used to warn him, so that he saved himself there more than once or twice. ¹¹And the mind of the king of Syria was greatly troubled because of this thing, and he called his servants and said to them, “Will you not show me who of us is for the king of Israel?” ¹²And one of his servants said, “None, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom.” ¹³And he said, “Go and see where he is, that I may send and seize him.” It was told him, “Behold, he is in Dothan.” ¹⁴So he sent there horses and chariots and a great army, and they came by night and surrounded the city.

¹⁵When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. And the servant said, “Alas, my master! What shall we do?” ¹⁶He said, “Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” ¹⁷Then Elisha prayed and said, “O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see.” So the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. ¹⁸And when the Syrians came down against him, Elisha prayed to the Lord and said, “Please strike this people with blindness.” So he struck them with blindness in accordance with the prayer of Elisha. ¹⁹And Elisha said to them, “This is not the way, and this is not the city. Follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom you seek.” And he led them to Samaria.

[Continued]

NOTES

WEEK 9: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ICEBREAKER QUESTION

Share a favorite or memorable optical illusion or magic trick.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What are some examples from the passage that show how involved God is in the details of caring for His people?

What is the significance of God allowing His people to see the protection that is typically unseen?

How horrifically bad does God allow the situation in Samaria to get and why?

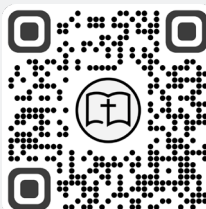
APPLICATION QUESTIONS

What challenges in life sometimes seem too small for God to care about?

What would it look like this week for you to more deeply trust in God's wise ability to resolve seemingly insurmountable challenges in the world in unimaginable ways? How can you take Eph 3:20-21 to heart this week?

NEXT STEP OPPORTUNITY

Share a prayer request this week that might seem too small or too big for God.



Week 10

THE CONFIRMATION

2 KINGS 7:3-20

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WEEK 10

2 KINGS 7:3-20

³Now there were four men who were lepers at the entrance to the gate. And they said to one another, “Why are we sitting here until we die? ⁴If we say, ‘Let us enter the city,’ the famine is in the city, and we shall die there. And if we sit here, we die also. So now come, let us go over to the camp of the Syrians. If they spare our lives we shall live, and if they kill us we shall but die.” ⁵So they arose at twilight to go to the camp of the Syrians. But when they came to the edge of the camp of the Syrians, behold, there was no one there. ⁶For the Lord had made the army of the Syrians hear the sound of chariots and of horses, the sound of a great army, so that they said to one another, “Behold, the king of Israel has hired against us the kings of the Hittites and the kings of Egypt to come against us.” ⁷So they fled away in the twilight and abandoned their tents, their horses, and their donkeys, leaving the camp as it was, and fled for their lives. ⁸And when these lepers came to the edge of the camp, they went into a tent and ate and drank, and they carried off silver and gold and clothing and went and hid them. Then they came back and entered another tent and carried off things from it and went and hid them. ⁹Then they said to one another, “We are not doing right. This day is a day of good news. If we are silent and wait until the morning light, punishment will overtake us. Now therefore come; let us go and tell the king’s household.” ¹⁰So they came and called to the gatekeepers of the city and told them, “We came to the camp of the Syrians, and behold, there was no one to be seen or heard there, nothing but the horses tied and the donkeys tied and the tents as they were.” ¹¹Then the gatekeepers called out, and it was told within the king’s household. ¹²And the king rose in the night and said to his servants, “I will tell you what the Syrians have done to us. They know that we are hungry. Therefore they have gone out of the camp to hide themselves in the open country, thinking, ‘When they come out of the city, we shall take them alive and get into the city.’” ¹³And one of his servants said, “Let some men take five of the remaining horses, seeing that those who are left here will fare like the whole multitude of Israel who have already perished. Let us send and see.” ¹⁴So they took two horsemen, and the king sent them after the army of the Syrians, saying, “Go and see.” ¹⁵So they went after them as far as the Jordan, and behold, all the way was littered with garments and equipment that the Syrians had thrown away in their haste. And the messengers returned and told the king. [Continued]

NOTES

WEEK 10: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ICEBREAKER QUESTION

Share a story of a pleasant surprise.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What does the lepers' dire situation cause them to fail to realize about their behavior until they pause and reflect?

What can we learn from the lepers' motivation to share good news?

What can we learn from the severe consequences of stubborn unbelief upon the captain in charge of the gate?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

How are you tempted to sit on the blessings of good news and fail to share it with others?

How can the consequences of unbelief motivate you to share the good news with zeal?

Week 11

THE RESTORATION

2 KINGS 8:1-6

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WEEK 11

2 KINGS 8:1-6

¹Now Elisha had said to the woman whose son he had restored to life, “Arise, and depart with your household, and sojourn wherever you can, for the Lord has called for a famine, and it will come upon the land for seven years.” ²So the woman arose and did according to the word of the man of God. She went with her household and sojourned in the land of the Philistines seven years. ³And at the end of the seven years, when the woman returned from the land of the Philistines, she went to appeal to the king for her house and her land. ⁴Now the king was talking with Gehazi the servant of the man of God, saying, “Tell me all the great things that Elisha has done.” ⁵And while he was telling the king how Elisha had restored the dead to life, behold, the woman whose son he had restored to life appealed to the king for her house and her land. And Gehazi said, “My lord, O king, here is the woman, and here is her son whom Elisha restored to life.” ⁶And when the king asked the woman, she told him. So the king appointed an official for her, saying, “Restore all that was hers, together with all the produce of the fields from the day that she left the land until now.”

NOTES

WEEK 11: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ICEBREAKER QUESTION

What are some memorable trips you've taken?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What is the significance of this renewed season of famine?

How is God's good providence on display in this passage?

What does this story teach about the power of personal testimonies of God's provision?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

What kind of season are you currently in: enduring, coming out of, or readying yourself for a time of testing?

Share a personal testimony of God's faithfulness in your life.

NEXT STEP OPPORTUNITY

Following Jesus doesn't happen alone. Join a community group today.



Week 12

THE DEMISE

2 KINGS 8:7-15

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WEEK 12

2 KINGS 8:7-15

⁷Now Elisha came to Damascus. Ben-hadad the king of Syria was sick. And when it was told him, “The man of God has come here,” ⁸the king said to Hazael, “Take a present with you and go to meet the man of God, and inquire of the Lord through him, saying, ‘Shall I recover from this sickness?’ ” ⁹So Hazael went to meet him, and took a present with him, all kinds of goods of Damascus, forty camels’ loads. When he came and stood before him, he said, “Your son Ben-hadad king of Syria has sent me to you, saying, ‘Shall I recover from this sickness?’ ” ¹⁰And Elisha said to him, “Go, say to him, ‘You shall certainly recover,’ but the Lord has shown me that he shall certainly die.” ¹¹And he fixed his gaze and stared at him, until he was embarrassed. And the man of God wept. ¹²And Hazael said, “Why does my lord weep?” He answered, “Because I know the evil that you will do to the people of Israel. You will set on fire their fortresses, and you will kill their young men with the sword and dash in pieces their little ones and rip open their pregnant women.” ¹³And Hazael said, “What is your servant, who is but a dog, that he should do this great thing?” Elisha answered, “The Lord has shown me that you are to be king over Syria.” ¹⁴Then he departed from Elisha and came to his master, who said to him, “What did Elisha say to you?” And he answered, “He told me that you would certainly recover.” ¹⁵But the next day he took the bed cloth and dipped it in water and spread it over his face, till he died. And Hazael became king in his place.

NOTES

WEEK 12: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ICEBREAKER QUESTION

What is something that you had to wait a long time to see come to pass?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What can the often violent affairs of man and government teach us about ourselves and about God?

What should Elisha's response to the coming judgment of God's people teach us?

What other examples from Scripture show God's ability to ensure His outcomes even through evil people following their desires?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

What judgments and suffering in your life and in the world might you grieve over in a healthy way?

What evil going on in your life and in the world do you need to trust God to use for good?

Week 13

THE ENCORE

2 KINGS 13:14-25

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WEEK 13

2 KINGS 13:14-25

¹⁴Now when Elisha had fallen sick with the illness of which he was to die, Joash king of Israel went down to him and wept before him, crying, “My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” ¹⁵And Elisha said to him, “Take a bow and arrows.” So he took a bow and arrows. ¹⁶Then he said to the king of Israel, “Draw the bow,” and he drew it. And Elisha laid his hands on the king’s hands. ¹⁷And he said, “Open the window eastward,” and he opened it. Then Elisha said, “Shoot,” and he shot. And he said, “The Lord’s arrow of victory, the arrow of victory over Syria! For you shall fight the Syrians in Aphek until you have made an end of them.” ¹⁸And he said, “Take the arrows,” and he took them. And he said to the king of Israel, “Strike the ground with them.” And he struck three times and stopped. ¹⁹Then the man of God was angry with him and said, “You should have struck five or six times; then you would have struck down Syria until you had made an end of it, but now you will strike down Syria only three times.” ²⁰So Elisha died, and they buried him. Now bands of Moabites used to invade the land in the spring of the year. ²¹And as a man was being buried, behold, a marauding band was seen and the man was thrown into the grave of Elisha, and as soon as the man touched the bones of Elisha, he revived and stood on his feet. ²²Now Hazael king of Syria oppressed Israel all the days of Jehoahaz. ²³But the Lord was gracious to them and had compassion on them, and he turned toward them, because of his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and would not destroy them, nor has he cast them from his presence until now. ²⁴When Hazael king of Syria died, Ben-hadad his son became king in his place. ²⁵Then Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz took again from Ben-hadad the son of Hazael the cities that he had taken from Jehoahaz his father in war. Three times Joash defeated him and recovered the cities of Israel.

NOTES

WEEK 13: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ICEBREAKER QUESTION

What 'hero' from your life is most difficult to think about dying?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What is the significance of Joash's effort (or lack thereof) in striking the arrows?

What is the body reviving at the touch of Elisha's bones meant to teach us about God's presence and provision for His people?

What is the primary motivator of God's compassion and graciousness to his people?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

What so often keeps us from cashing in with great faith on the blank checks God has written us (i.e. Jn 14:14)?

How does unbelief tempt you to limit God's ability to work in this day, in this place, and in your life?

NEXT STEP OPPORTUNITY

Share a bold prayer request for something that God might want but to you feels too big to ask for.





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