



Faith

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for
Teens

Sunday
School
Services

Zion Assembly Church of God
Writer: Pam Jones

“Elisha’s Exploits”

Elisha’s Exploits, Part One – April 7, 2024

Lesson – Double Portion

Scriptures – 2 Kings 2:1-15; John 14:16-17; Acts 2:1-4

Introduction to lesson

“DOUBLE PORTION” – As Elijah’s minister, Elisha learned everything he could about his future responsibilities. When it came time for Elijah to be taken, Elisha knew he could never fulfill his responsibilities unless he received the anointing and empowerment of God. When Elijah said, “Ask what I shall do for thee,” Elisha knew he needed more of the Spirit of God in order to be the prophet God called him to be. He then asked Elijah to give him a double portion of his spirit. How badly did Elisha want the anointing of God? On the day Elijah was taken, Elisha did not leave his side. Elijah tried three times to persuade him to remain behind, but Elisha stayed close to him. The promise of receiving the double portion was conditional upon seeing Elijah taken. Persistence and anticipation brought Elisha that double portion! The fulfillment of the promise was evidenced by the mantle that fell from Elijah, and by Elisha’s miraculous parting of the Jordan with the mantle. Just like Elijah, the Spirit now rested on Elisha, using him mightily as a prophet in Israel. Today, the Spirit of God is for those who ask the Father for this gift. The baptism with the Holy Ghost was the fullness of the promise Jesus gave in John 14:16-17. How bad do you want the anointing? Jesus promised to send the Spirit, and He came on the Day of Pentecost. It is now up to us to desire, to seek, and to obtain the promise of the Father. If we truly desire a double portion, just as Elisha did, then we must draw closer to God and be persistent in our relationship with the Lord.

Key Verse: “And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me” (2 Kings 2:9).

Questions to Discuss:

- ✚ Why did Elisha want a double portion of the Spirit?
- ✚ What did Elijah promise to Elisha, and what was the condition that had to be met for the fulfillment of this promise?
- ✚ What is the promise of God to us, and what condition must be met for the fulfillment of God’s promise? (Lu. 11:9-13)
- ✚ Why is it important to have the anointing of the Holy Spirit in our individual lives and in our church services?

Think about it:

♪♪ Anointing fall on me Let the power of the Holy Spirit fall on me, anointing fall on me.♪♪ Elisha desired the anointing and empowerment of the Spirit; and because he was willing to seek and be persistent, he received The doctrine of the baptism with the Holy Ghost was restored in the church at the turn of the 20th century. God’s promise is still good today for those who desire and seek Him. Give me a DOUBLE PORTION Lord!

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“Elisha’s Exploits”

Elisha’s Exploits, Part One – April 14, 2024

Lesson – Healing the Waters

Scriptures – 2 Kings 2:15-22; Matthew 5:13

Introduction to lesson

THE FIRST TEST - After Elijah was taken up into heaven, Elisha received the double portion of the same Spirit that was upon Elijah. Elisha went back to the Jordan River and parted the waters calling on the Lord God. Elisha stayed in Jericho while search was being made for the body of Elijah. While there, the men of the city came to Elisha for help. THE PROPHET: Elisha was God’s leading prophet in Israel; he was the go-to-person when you needed help. Who will people go to today when needing help from God? As Christians, and as members in Zion Assembly, we are representatives of Christ and his church. We must have the anointing of the Holy Ghost working in us when someone comes to us for God’s help. THE PROBLEM: the water was bad, and the ground was barren (without fruit). There was water, but it could not be used and needed healing. This healing is impossible without the anointing. THE ASKING: the men went to the prophet of God for help. The men knew the healing of the water could only be done by God and through His anointed prophet. THE WORD: Elisha said, “Bring me a new cruse (or bowl).” True anointing only comes through a new, fresh vessel. Then he said, “Put salt in it.” Salt has been a necessary means of flavoring and preserving food. In the Old Testament, sacrifices were sprinkled with salt by the priest. Also, salt is a symbol of lasting unity and peace, because it protects food from decay and preserves it unchanged. Jesus said, “Ye are the salt of the earth...” (Mt. 5:13). The anointed new vessel must be flavored with grace, love, and peace, and be zealous to protect and preserve the Word of God as true and unchanged. THE FAITH: the men demonstrated their faith by obedience to Elisha. They did as he required without question and doubting. Faith can move mountains, and bring life and victory. THE WORK: healing started at the springs of the water (i.e. at the source where the water came forth); and this is where Elisha cast the salt. Healing starts at the source of the problem; at the heart of the matter. THE HEALING came by the Word of God. Elisha said, “Thus saith the LORD, I have healed these waters; there shall not be from thence any more death or barren land.”

Key Verse: “So the waters were healed unto this day, according to the saying of Elisha which he spake” (2 Kg. 2:22).

Questions to Discuss:

- ✚ What was wrong with the water? What problem did this cause for the people of Jericho? Do you see these same problems today? Explain.
- ✚ Why a NEW cruse (bowl), and why salt in the bowl?

Think about it:

God’s Word was spoken by the Spirit of the Lord, and the water source was healed! When people come asking for divine help and healing, we must have the anointing of the Holy Ghost and know God’s Word. This will enable us to declare God’s will by divine inspiration, which can bring healing to them.

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“Elisha’s Exploits”

Elisha’s Exploits, Part One – April 21, 2024

Lesson – Cursed Children

Scriptures – 2 Kings 2:23-25; Ro. 13:1-7

Introduction to lesson

IT’S ALL ABOUT RESPECT. In this lesson, we will consider Elisha’s example as the proof that God requires us to respect those over us in the Lord. The next place we find Elisha is on his way to Bethel. As he was going on his way, more than 42 children mocked him showing great disrespect which was driven by the spirit of rebellion. In response, Elisha cursed them in the name of the Lord, and two female bears came out of the forest and attacked them! This action may seem harsh, but it is included in the events of Elisha’s life for our learning. The issue here was much more than children’s comments of disrespect. First, we want to take notice of the spiritual distress of Israel. The kings were exceedingly wicked men who led the nation into idolatrous worship and wicked practices. The public disregard for God’s authority in the nation was then evident in a gang of children mocking God’s prophet. Their mocking was not a light matter in God’s eyes. Next, Elisha’s curse was prompted by the Spirit of God. The spirit of rebellion acting in disrespect cannot be overlooked; it must be brought to judgment. Today in our society, we are experiencing this same outright disrespect for governing authority, and especially for the authority of church leadership. Paul also wrote to the saints about respecting and submitting to the “the higher powers” because they are ordered by God (Ro. 13:1-7). When people go against the authority that God has set in place, they bring judgment upon themselves. We are responsible to teach and demonstrate respect for governing authority, especially the authority of church leadership.

Key Verse: “Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour” (Romans 13:7).

Questions to Discuss:

- ✚ Why such a harsh curse against the children?
- ✚ Compare the disrespect then and now.
- ✚ As Christians, what life lesson can we learn in this story?

Think about it:

“REBELLION vs. RESPECT” – *Rebellion* is a heart issue, and from this rebellious heart comes forth disrespect. It resists authority and is likened to witchcraft in the Bible (1 Sa. 15:23). It brings forth judgment upon us (Ro. 13:1-2). *Respect* – It’s not always easy to come under authority and show respect. Nobody wants to be told what and how to do. But when you are in a relationship with God, he expects you to respect the people he’s placed in authority over you. You may not agree with their decisions, but you still need to show respect for the position and for the person who is in the position. It’s ALL ABOUT RESPECT and giving honor to our spiritual leaders in the church.

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“Elisha’s Exploits”

Elisha’s Exploits, Part One – April 28, 2024

Lesson – Victory in Battle

Scriptures – 2 Kings 3:4-27; 1 John 5:4-5

Introduction to lesson

“IMPOSSIBLE MADE POSSIBLE” – God is able to give us victory over our enemies, even when our situation seems impossible. As we continue with the exploits of Elisha, the next event shows God’s supernatural intervention in circumstances beyond the control of men. Elisha left Bethel and went to Mount Carmel, and then on to Samaria. Jehoram, the son of Ahab, was king and reigned over Israel in Samaria. But he was very evil in the sight of the Lord. Mesh, King of Moab, rebelled against Jehoram. King Jehoram needed to stop the rebellion, but he could not do it alone. So he called upon Jehoshaphat, king of Judah. Jehoram, Jehoshaphat, and the king of Edom joined in an alliance to fight against the Moabites. After seven days of marching toward Moab, they found themselves without water for the troops. Jehoram believed they were heading toward defeat. But Jehoshaphat believed they needed to seek the word of the Lord in order to receive an answer from God. This is where Elisha comes in; to get direction from God, they needed a prophet to give the Word of God. The Lord told them to do something strange; dig ditches all over the valley. Before victory comes, there must be obedience and faith in God’s Word. Not only would they get victory in obtaining water without wind or rain, but God also promised victory over their enemies. Victory came just as God said it would. Although the Moabites tried to fight, it was pointless. They were defeated! When we can do nothing to fix the overwhelming circumstances in our lives, we should turn to God for direction. Through obedience and faith in God’s Word, we too can experience a miraculous victory (1 John 5:4-5).

Key Verse: “For with God nothing shall be impossible” (Luke 1:37).

Questions to Discuss:

- ✚ What was the instruction from the Lord concerning their problem?
- ✚ Why do you believe the Lord gave such strange instructions?
- ✚ How much did faith and obedience play a part in the victory?
- ✚ What can we do when we face overwhelming circumstances in our lives?

Think about it:

God does the impossible for us because God wants us to be victorious. He does not want us to be a defeated people. When our situation is bigger than us, that’s when the Lord can show us nothing is impossible with Him! Our victory comes through faith in Jesus Christ and through obedience to God’s Word.

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“Elisha’s Exploits”

Elisha’s Exploits, Part Two – May 5, 2024

Lesson – “Multiplied Oil”

Scriptures – Philippians 4:19; Matthew 7:7;
2 Kings 4:1-7

Introduction to lesson

Elisha was a great prophet in Israel that spoke the word of God with boldness and unfeigned faith. He took over the office of prophet after Elijah was taken up to heaven. Through Elijah, God did great wonders, and Elisha was not any different. Elisha had a “double portion” of Elijah’s spirit. Through Elisha, we read in 2 Kings 4 that God wanted to show his power in the situation of a local widow woman, a widow “of the sons of the prophets.” She came to Elisha asking for help; her problem was that her husband had left a debt she could not repay. The people she now owed were asking for their money, even threatening to take her two sons and make them “slaves” as payment for what she owed. This was an awful situation, right? The bible tells us, “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you” (Mt. 7:7). If we do not ask, then we cannot expect to receive from the Lord. God is interested in what seems like the most insignificant things in our lives. God is not absent from our everyday concerns, and he is willing to help if we seek, ask, and knock. The prophet asked the woman if she had anything to help her situation. Her response was, “Nothing at all, except a small jar of olive oil.” Elisha told her to borrow a lot of jars, instructed her to lock herself and her sons in the house to prepare for the provision from the Lord, and told her to start pouring into the empty jars. When she did this, all the jars were filled and her needs were met. God is interested in what happens to his children. Place your trust in God’s ability to “provide our every need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus” (Ph. 4:19).

Key Verse: “But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19).

Questions to Discuss:

- ✚ Explain the women’s situation?
- ✚ How would you feel in her shoes? Would your faith stand?
- ✚ Do you know you can go to God for anything?
- ✚ What can you take away from this story that will help you?
- ✚ Can God use any object or only certain ones?

Think about it: Our God can do anything. He is more than able to supply all of our needs. In fact, he can go above and beyond our wildest imaginations. Listen to Paul the apostle: “He is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think...” (Ephesians 3:20). So don’t limit God in your life. Go to him first in every situation, knowing that he is able and believing that he will supply our needs.

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“Elisha’s Exploits”

Elisha’s Exploits, Part Two – May 12, 2024

Lesson – “The Shunammite Woman”

Scriptures – 2 Kings 4:8-17; Luke 6:38

Introduction to lesson

When you do something for someone, is there a particular motive you have? Are you expecting something in return? The “what’s in it for me” train is filled with lots of people – they are not givers, but takers. Elisha met a woman that had nothing in mind but to simply bless the “man of God.” Our motive is the true desire behind our words and actions. Motive is of great importance to God. You see, God knows us “...For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether (Psalm 139:4). Not much is said of the woman (2 Kings 4:8-37), but she was from Shunem and was “great,” which probably meant she was of influence in the town. She showed great hospitality and kindness to the man of God, even to the point of preparing a special room where he could stay when he came that way. The prophet asked if there was anything he could do for her to repay her and her husband’s kindness. Elisha’s servant Gehazi told him that they did not have any children, and her husband was old. Because the intentions of this woman and her husband were pure, simply looking after Elisha and his needs, the Lord gave her a son a year later. “And the woman conceived, and bare a son at that season that Elisha had said unto her, according to the time of life” (2 Kings 4:17). When we do things with pure motives like this woman and her husband, the Lord will reward openly. “Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom” (Luke 6:38). Make sure you give not expecting anything in return, but give simply to honor God and to bless others.

Key Verse: “Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts” (Psalms 139:23).

Questions to Discuss:

- ✚ What can you understand about this woman’s intentions?
- ✚ Do you think this act pleased God?
- ✚ Do you think this woman was content with what she had?
- ✚ What can you take away from this story that will help you?
- ✚ How can we be more pure in our motives towards others?

Think about it: The gracious woman gave with right motives, and in return, God gave her a miracle she wasn’t even looking for, something beyond her imagination. You see, there is a principle in God’s word that says, “For with the same measure that ye mete whithal it shall be measured to you again” (Luke 6:38). We cannot fool God; he knows our thoughts and our heart. When we minister to the needs of others, not thinking of ourselves, God will surely reward accordingly.

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“ELISHA’S EXPLOITS”

Elisha’s Exploits, Part Two – May 19, 2024

Lesson – “The Dead Is Raised”

Scriptures – 2 Kings 4:18-37; Jn. 10:17-18

Introduction to lesson

Last week, we saw how God rewarded a Shunammite woman for her kindness to the prophet Elisha. She was a faithful woman who gave with pure motives, desiring only to serve the prophet whom she acknowledged as “a holy man of God.” Because she gave freely, the Lord gave her a son even though her husband was old. But after her faithfulness was rewarded, her faith would later be tested. In 2 Kings 4:18-37, one day her son went out to his father where the workers were reaping the fields. The boy complained of a headache to his father, who then sent him back home to rest. His mother cared for him until noon, but the boy died in her lap. Obviously, the mother was saddened by this sudden loss. But there is something that shines brightly in the story – her faith that God could bring her son back to life. She ran to see the man of God, and when he asked if her family was alright, she said, “It is well.” She was a woman of great deeds, but more importantly of great faith. Elisha sent his servant, Gehazi, to take his staff and lay it on the child until he got there. After the prophet arrived, he prayed to the Lord, and then he laid himself across the child, eye-to-eye and nose-to-nose. Miraculously, the child was brought back to life. Clearly, God has the power to give and take life (Jn. 10:17-18). Moreover, Christ proved his power over death and the grave when he resurrected from the dead. The Lord can do infinitely more than we can imagine when we believe him for the impossible. When we pray, we should remember that we are calling on the Lord who has all power in heaven and in earth (Mt. 28: 18).

Key Verse: “In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed” (1 Cor. 15:52).

Questions to Discuss:

- ✚ According to Scripture, what was the woman’s attitude regarding the death of her child?
- ✚ Was the boy dead or faking it? What does that tell you about the power of God?
- ✚ How should we approach God with what seems like impossible circumstances?
- ✚ Who is the only one that has power over the grave and death?

Think about it: No doubt, the greatest power of God we can experience is the power of salvation through Christ Jesus. He gives us eternal life. Our natural bodies will die one day. The Shunammites son lived the rest of his life, and then he died again. You see, natural life is not our goal in Christ – “He gives eternal life” (John 17:2; 3:16). The good news of the gospel is one day we will be raised in immortality and never see death, but we’ll live eternally! (1 Co. 15:50-57).

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“ELISHA’S EXPLOITS”

Elisha’s Exploits, Part Two – May 26, 2024

Lesson – “Healing of the Pottage”

Scriptures – 2 Kings 4:38-41; 2 Chronicles 16:9

Introduction to lesson

In today’s lesson, we read about the sons of the prophets who lived through some tough times. Years earlier, there was famine – lack of food – in the land of Israel during Elijah’s ministry. At that time, the land experienced 3½ years of drought (1 Kings 17:1; James 5:17). God used famine and drought as a way to judge and humble his people (2 Chr. 6:26-31; 7:12-14). Now, during Elisha’s ministry, we again see famine in the land. Elisha came to visit the sons of the prophets in their time of distress. God took this opportunity to intervene in a marvelous way. You see, time and time again, God shows up in situations where we are powerless, and he receives glory by demonstrating his power in our lives (2 Chr. 16:9). Elisha asked his servant to prepare a pottage (soup/stew) for the prophets. But because of the lack of food, someone went to the fields and gathered wild gourds that turned out to be poisonous. Without any knowledge, they added them to the pot. When the people ate it, they shouted, “There is death in the pot!” Instead of throwing it away, Elisha asked for meal (milled grain), and he put it in the pottage. Of course, there was no power in the actual meal, but it was the physical representation of God’s miraculous healing of the pottage. God had the power to heal the deadly pottage and to turn it into nourishment. In this way, he both provided for and protected them.

Key Verse: “But he said, Then bring meal. And he cast it into the pot; and he said, Pour out for the people, that they may eat. And there was no harm in the pot” (2 Kings 4:41).

Questions to Discuss:

- ✚ According to Scripture, what was the condition of the land?
- ✚ What was Elisha’s response to the need of the sons of the prophets?
- ✚ How do you see God’s hand moving in this story?
- ✚ Have you experienced a supernatural moving of God’s hand on your need?

Think about it: The sons of the prophets had to experience great faith in eating the “poisonous pottage.” They obviously had great confidence in Elisha’s relationship with God. It was an intimate and close relationship. No doubt, this miracle was significant in its timing. God showed the sons of the prophets that he would continue to take care of their needs even during a difficult time of famine. The Lord is faithful; he does not forget about us, and he will continue to supply our needs.

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Writer: Trevor Graves

Elisha's Exploits

"Elisha's Exploits, Part 3" – June 2, 2024

Lesson – "God Is Able and Faithful"

Scriptures – 2 Kings 4:42-44

Introduction to lesson

Have you ever made a promise that you were unable to keep? This is likely to happen with people, but it will never happen with God. It is actually impossible for God to lie, and he is more than able to do whatever he says he will do. He is the all powerful Creator and Possessor of all things. Therefore, he is not limited in his ability and resources. Although we are limited, all things are possible with God. When he says he will do something, you can trust that he will somehow make it happen, no matter what the circumstances may look like. In today's lesson, we will see that God will always follow through with what he says he will do, even when it appears to be impossible.

Key Verse: "So he set it before them, and they did eat, and left thereof, according to the word of the Lord" (2 Kings 4:44).

Questions to Discuss:

- ✚ What did the man from Baalshalisha bring to Elisha? (v. 42)
- ✚ What is the meaning/significance of the word "firstfruits?" (v. 42)
- ✚ What did the prophet Elisha tell the man to do with the offering of food? (v. 42)
- ✚ Judging by the man's question, was his offering enough to feed the people? (v. 43)
- ✚ Despite the shortage of food, what did God say was going to happen? (v. 44)
- ✚ When the man from Baalshalisha gave to the people as Elisha told him to do, what happened? (v. 44)

Think about it:

During a time of famine, this man from Baalshalisha brought an offering of his firstfruits. The "firstfruits" was an offering to honor God and showed that he trusted God to supply his needs. Though it wasn't much, God had planned to take the small offering and multiply it to supply the needs of his people. God used the prophet Elisha to proclaim his Word, and then by a miracle, there was more than enough food to feed the 100 men. You see, God will take care of his people in miraculous ways. We just have to live by faith and obedience to his Word in order to experience his perfect plan for our lives. He is always faithful to perform what he has spoken, so don't ever doubt the promises of his Word. Even when we can't see how he's going to do it, and those around us don't understand how we can believe what we believe, we must keep our faith in the God who is able and always faithful to keep his Word!

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Elisha's Exploits

"Elisha's Exploits, Part 3" – June 9, 2024

Lesson – "God's Purpose for Miracles"

Scriptures – 2 Kings 5:1-15

Introduction to lesson

Have you ever been amazed from the news that someone has been healed of cancer? Or maybe, you've been wowed by the testimony of a broken marriage being restored or a drug addict being completely set free. It's certainly wonderful when God chooses to do something that goes beyond the ability of what we can do on our own. We will always marvel at miracles such as these, because we can never explain how they are made possible. Although we can't understand how miracles happen, we can see a trend in how people are affected by them throughout the Bible. Examining what happens after miracles take place can help us understand God's purpose for using miracles. In today's lesson, let's take a look at a special miracle that took place during the time Elisha was a prophet in Israel, and let's see if we can recognize why true miracles happen.

Key Verse: "And he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and came, and stood before him: and he said, Behold, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel: now therefore I pray thee, take a blessing of thy servant" (2 Kings 5:15).

Questions to Discuss:

- + Who was Naaman and what kind of sickness did he have? (v. 1)
- + Why did the king of Syria send Naaman to Israel? (v. 6)
- + When Naaman came to the house of Elisha, what message did Elisha send to him through a messenger? (v. 10)
- + Why was Naaman angry at Elisha's instructions? (vv. 11-12)
- + After listening to his servants, did Naaman obey or disobey the Word of God spoken by the prophet Elisha? (vv. 13-14)
- + What happens when people respond in faith and obedience to God's Word? (vv. 14-15)

Think about it:

Naaman was basically a war hero, who needed healing from a deadly disease. When he came to Elisha's house, Elisha did not even go out to meet him, but sent him a simple instruction to dip himself in the Jordan River seven times. This is not at all what Naaman had in mind. He thought Elisha would be present for the healing or at least he deserved to wash in a better river than the Jordan River. But the promise of healing was conditional. Naaman had to humble himself and do things God's way if he wanted his flesh to come back and be clean from the disease of leprosy. After he followed the Word of God spoken by Elisha, his flesh returned like the flesh of a little child. He then testified that Israel's God was the one true God. God still works the same way today. He uses miracles to prove his Word and to show how great he is. If we respond in faith and obedience to God's Word, he will do great things not only for the purpose of meeting our need, but also to reveal himself and the truth of his Word to others!

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Elisha's Exploits

"Elisha's Exploits, Part 3" – June 16, 2024

Lesson – "Trusting God for Miracles"

Scriptures – 2 Kings 6:1-7

Introduction to lesson

God is a miracle worker! There's not a problem too great for God to work out. This is a basic belief that we should all hold if we profess Jesus Christ to be our Lord and Savior. But how often do we exercise our faith when problems come up in our own lives? Do we look to God first, or do we call on him as a last resort? Since God is all-powerful, all-knowing, and in complete control, we should look to him continually to work things out according to his will. Also, we should expect great things to happen when we are dwelling in his presence daily and depending on his great ability. In today's lesson, we will see how God can and will do miracles in our daily lives when we are putting our faith in him.

Key Verse: "And the man of God said, Where fell it? And he showed him the place. And he cut down a stick, and cast it in thither; and the iron did swim" (2 Kings 6:6).

Questions to Discuss:

- ✦ The sons of the prophets needed a bigger place to live. What did they plan on doing to fix their situation? (vv. 1-2)
- ✦ Who went with the sons of the prophets? Where did they go? What did they do? (vv. 3-4)
- ✦ What problem came up while one of the prophets was cutting down a tree? (v. 5)
- ✦ Besides the fact that ax heads were very difficult to replace in those days, why was losing this particular ax head such a big deal? (v. 5)
- ✦ Why do you think Elisha cut down a stick and cast it in the river?
- ✦ When Elisha threw in the stick, what miracle took place? (v. 6)
- ✦ What did Elisha tell the man who had lost the ax head to do? (v. 7)

Think about it:

It must have been very disturbing for this prophet-in-training to have lost something very valuable that he had borrowed from someone else. But since he looked in the right direction for help, God miraculously defied the laws of nature and made the iron ax head come back to the surface and float on the water. Difficult situations pop up in our everyday lives. Things that we're not expecting interrupt our plans, and in those moments we may feel stressed, not knowing how we are going to fix our situation. In those times of frustration, we must learn to quickly call upon our Lord like the son of the prophet cried out to Elisha. As the prophet Elisha was right there in his time of need, so God is "a very present help in [our time of] trouble" (Ps. 46:1). He will still work miracles in our everyday lives if we will call upon him in faith. Exactly how he'll work things out, we do not know, but let us look to him in faith and receive his miracle-working power each and every day!

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Zion Assembly Church of God
Writer: Trevor Graves

Elisha's Exploits

"Elisha's Exploits, Part 3" – June 23, 2024

Lesson – "Let God Open Your Eyes"

Scriptures – 2 Kings 6:8-20

Introduction to lesson

Do you think you know a lot? If you could compare how much you do know with how much you don't know, which would be more? For Christians, it's comforting to know that God knows everything! We don't, but he does. He knows exactly what we are going to face each and every day. What's awesome too is that God will reveal what we need to know when we seek after him. The fact that God who knows everything communicates his great knowledge to his people is really a miracle if you think about it. We can actually know his absolute Truth and be enlightened to live in the peace of God that passes our human understanding no matter what happens in this life. In today's lesson, we will see how the all-knowing God kept his people from defeat by opening their eyes to his knowledge and perspective.

Key Verse: "And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha" (2 Kings 6:17).

Questions to Discuss:

- ✦ Why was the Syrian king unable to accomplish his military plans against Israel? (vv. 8-10)
- ✦ Who did the king of Syria think was revealing his secret plans to the king of Israel? (vv. 11-12)
- ✦ What did the king of Syria plan to do once he found out Elisha was revealing his plans to the king of Israel? (vv. 13-14)
- ✦ What frightening sight did Elisha's servant see, and why was Elisha not afraid? (vv. 15-16)
- ✦ What did Elisha's servant see after God opened up his eyes? (v. 17)
- ✦ What happened to the Syrians who came to capture Elisha? (vv. 18-20)

Think about it:

It's awesome that God gives us the knowledge and understanding we need to be victorious! If God could reveal the hidden plans of the Syrian king to the prophet Elisha miles away, then God can show us the plans of Satan and his evil forces. If God can open the eyes of Elisha's servant to see the angel armies defending them from the Syrian troops, then God can open the eyes of our heart to see that "greater is he that is in [us], than he that is in the world" (1 Jn. 4:4). We just need to get into his word and let God reveal Satan's tactics to us, so that we will avoid falling into his traps. We just need to pray so we can see our circumstances through the eyes of faith rather than letting fear get the best of us. Just think; with God's insight, Elisha was able to lead an army of men into the hands of the king of Israel! If we are on God's side, then we have every reason to overcome the enemy and live victoriously in Christ. "If God be for us, who can be against us" (Ro. 8:31)?

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Sunday School Services

Zion Assembly Church of God
Writer: Trevor Graves

Elisha's Exploits

“Elisha's Exploits, Part 3” – June 30, 2024

Lesson – “Fervent Faith”

Scriptures – 2 Kings 13:14-19

Introduction to lesson

On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate your service to God? When you pray, do you pour out your heart expecting God to work according to his Word, or do you just pray because that's what you're supposed to do? When you read your Bible, do you listen to God speak and rejoice in his truth, or do you just read to say you've read? When you sing songs of praise, do you sincerely mean it, or does it just come from your lips? Going through the motions may look good on the outside, but it doesn't necessarily mean there is a real and faithful relationship with God taking place. If we are missing the mark in our service to God, how do you think that will affect the will of God in our lives? How might the church be affected? In today's lesson, we will see the effect of doing the right things the wrong way.

Key Verse: “And he said, **Take the arrows. And he took them. And he said unto the king of Israel, smite upon the ground. And he smote thrice, and stayed**” (2 Kings 13:18).

Questions to Discuss:

- ✚ When Elisha was very sick and approaching his death, what was King Joash's concern? (v.14)
- ✚ What did Elisha do once Joash had a bow and arrows in his hands? (v.15-16)
- ✚ What did shooting an arrow out of the window represent? (v.17)
- ✚ What did Elisha tell the king to do with the remaining arrows? (v.18)
- ✚ How many times did Joash smite the ground? (v.18)
- ✚ After Joash used the arrows to smite the ground, what happened as a result? (v.19)

Think about it:

Just before Elisha died, God used him one last time to test the faith of the king of Israel. King Joash was troubled about what might happen to his army after Elisha passed on. Would Syria finally defeat them with Elisha gone? As Joash took the bow and arrow in his hands, Elisha placed his hands on the King's hands to symbolize God's favor upon him. He had Joash to shoot an arrow eastward to represent the Lord's deliverance from Syria. Elisha then revealed God's plan to give a complete victory to Israel. Then Joash had to smite the ground with the remaining arrows. Evidently, Joash did not display faith in God's plan because Elisha was angry with him. God must have known that Joash didn't have his whole heart in what he was doing. He only smote the ground 3 times and stopped, therefore they would only smite Syria 3 times instead of having complete victory. This should show us that it's not just outward action that God wants, but first he wants us to have a heart of faith. God has victory for his church, but we must exercise real faith in his Word in order to experience his victory. First and foremost, we do this through prayer. We need to pray whole-heartedly to see God move! Don't be satisfied with just going through the motions of service to God. Let's cry out to him with fervent prayer and begin to serve with a greater zeal than we have ever known. Then we will see the God of Elisha move to bring about victory on top of victory!

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