

Elijah/Elisha – Standing Alone
Week 12 – The Woman in Shunem

Transition: Last week our biblical passage focused on a widow in trouble and how God, through His prophet Elisha, took care of her and her family.

Context: This week our study focuses on a wealthy woman who befriends Elisha and is generous to him. When tragedy suddenly strikes, she knows what to do...ask the prophet Elisha to call on his God to rescue her family.

Opening Questions:

- When have you been the benefactor of someone's generosity? Share the story. What impact did it make on you?
- Have you ever been affected by a child dying? What happened? How did you get through it?

Scripture/Storying: 2 Kings 4:8-37

Discipleship Questions:

- What is your overall reaction to this passage? What impression does it make on you and why?
- This woman's generosity led to both unsolicited blessing and unexpected tragedy. How would you describe her internal struggle as she tries to wrap her mind around the death of her son-of-blessing?
- When have you struggled with understanding an unexpected personal tragedy? What was it? What was your struggle specifically? How did you handle it? How did it influence your view of God and life in general?
- The word for wealthy (v1) in the ESV can also be translated as great. In what ways is this woman's "greatness" exhibited in this passage? Of the steps of faith that she took, which has most meaning for you and why?
- When have you had great faith yourself? Share a story. How is great faith developed/attained? What step of faith is God leading you to take right now?
- What do you think this woman learned about God and faith from her son coming back to life? Why does God not immediately heal everybody's illness/death?
- In what ways does this passage remind you of Jesus?
- What is the Holy Spirit teaching you through this story? How does it impact the way you think and live?

Prayer time: This week we are praying for Hope Roberts, a missionary Providence supports.

- Pray that she will adjust quickly into her new role at Ethnos360 Training Center.
- Pray that the Lord will move in the hearts of people to provide her support through prayer & funding.