

Elijah/Elisha – Standing Alone

Week 16 – Getting the Axe

Transition: Last week we saw what happened to Gehazi (Elisha's servant) when he went behind Elisha's back by lying to Naaman about Elisha's wanting recompense for the miracle that healed Naaman's leprosy. Ironically, Naaman, a foreigner, obeyed God in faith and was rewarded by being cleansed of his leprosy, while Gehazi, an Israelite (and a "son of the prophets"?), acted in a way that despised God's grace to Naaman and was rewarded with leprosy.

Context: This week we are studying perhaps the least astounding of God's miracles through Elisha—the retrieval of a borrowed axe head that was lost when it sunk in the Jordan River. Although this miracle may not immediately appear to have the personal spiritual impact of some of the other miracles, upon deeper reflection, we realize there is much more than meets the eye.

Opening Questions:

- Have you ever lost or broken something that a friend let you borrow? What happened? How did you feel at the time? How did it turn out?
- Have you ever felt that something in your life was too small or insignificant to bring to God (because He has more important things on His mind)? Do you still feel this way? If not, what changed your view?

Scripture/Storying: 2 Kings 6:1-7

Discipleship Questions:

- What is your overall reaction to this passage? What impression does it make on you and why?
- One of the sons of the prophets invited Elisha to come along with them on their building project. What part did this play in the working out of the miracle? What does this teach you personally?
- When have you invited others to join you in doing something for the Lord or the Lord's people? Share the story. How did it turn out? Is inviting others to join you in serving the Lord easy or difficult for you? Explain.
- When you've been invited to join someone in serving the Lord, how do you determine for yourself when to join them (as Elisha did)?
- When has God showed up for you in a seemingly small or insignificant situation? Share the story. How did this affect your view of God? ...of yourself? ...of life?
- Do you truly believe that God cares about the big and small things in your life? If so, in what ways is it evident in the way you live? If not, what can you do to invite God into every area of your life?
- 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 Resource Center, a ministry that Providence supports.

- Pray that the new moms taking our parenting class will draw closer to the Lord.
- Pray that our general fundraising needs will be met by the end of the year.
- Pray for wisdom and divine protection for our medical executive committee—a group of local physicians who oversee the nurses and practitioners at Hope Resource Center.