

Elijah/Elisha – Standing Alone
Week 18 – God of the Impossible

Transition: In last week's passage, Elisha was thrust into a critical situation facing the northern kingdom of Israel—the imminent invasion of Syria's (Aram's) mighty army. As God opens and closes eyes throughout this story, we're reminded that God is always at work on behalf of His people, even if we can't literally see it.

Context: This week, Syria (Aram) is once again on the march against the northern kingdom of Israel and is set to conquer it through the sheer power of its mighty army. But in one of the most dramatic and surprising turnarounds in the Bible, Syrian soldiers scurry home because they are no match for God when He fights for His own.

Opening Questions:

- What “impossible” (seemingly hopeless) situation have you faced? How did you handle it? How did it turn out?
- When is it difficult for you to do the right thing (*the right thing from God's perspective)? What makes it difficult?

Scripture/Storying: 2 Kings 6:24 – 7:20

Discipleship Questions:

- What is your overall reaction to this passage? What impression does it make on you and why?
- What is a siege? What were the typical consequences of a siege? Why do you think the king blamed Elisha for the siege? Read Deuteronomy 28:45-57. Whom does God blame? What meaning does this reality have for you?
- Have you ever felt besieged by people who opposed you and there didn't seem to be a way out? What happened? How did you handle it? What advice do you have for a Christian who is going through a “siege?”
- Through Elisha, God promises the impossible...the very next day the siege, along with its horrific consequences, will come to an end. What promises of God do you struggle with believing for yourself? (Pray for everyone who shares.)
- The men who discover the Syrians' empty camp are lepers (considered by most people of that day to be society's lowest, and to have been spurned by God.) At first, they struggled with what to do. Specifically, what was their struggle and what caused them to make the right choice? How is their struggle relevant to you today?
- What is your typical attitude toward those who treat you poorly? How did Jesus handle those who treated Him poorly? (Think of specific examples.) What did He teach that pertains to this subject? (Think of specific verses.)
- What impact does this episode have on your view of God? ...on your view of yourself? ...on your view of God's community?
- 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 that Providence supports.

- Pray for the Ethnos 360 campus as we grieve the loss of a dear staff member.
- Pray for energy, health, and endurance as our team enters a season of immense busyness.
- Pray for wisdom and guidance as I choose a field of service.
- Pray for comfort as I experience times of homesickness.