

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of January 24 - January 30

Desiring the Kingdom

2 Kings 13 Developing a Heart for God

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

If you were forced to, what song would you sing on karaoke night?

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

MAIN POINTS

Having a heart for God means sharing God's desires and desiring God himself.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. **Read 2 Kings 13:1-9.** How is Jehoahaz described in these verses? Would you describe him as righteous in the eyes of God?
 - a. What caused Jehoahaz to reach out to God in prayer? Do you believe God hears the prayers of the unrighteous? Why or why not?
 - b. How does God respond to Jehoahaz's prayer? Why do you think God responded in this way? What was the end result for Israel after God answered Jehoahaz's prayer?
 - c. **Read Matthew 8:5-13.** Compare the Centurion and his request to the request of Jehoahaz. Consider and discuss Jesus' response in this verse. What does this, when considered with God's response to Jehoahaz, say about God's mercy and grace?
2. **Read 2 Kings 13:14-21.** Elisha had healed Naaman of leprosy, a disease with a 100% fatality rate, in 2 Kings 5. Why do you believe he was unable to heal himself of the illness that led to his death in this chapter? Do you believe he was less worthy than Naaman or Elijah who was taken up? Explain your answer.

- a. Elisha asked Joash to shoot arrows and “strike the ground” with them to symbolize the striking down of Syria. What aroused his anger against the king in verse 19? What failure did this represent on the part of Joash?
 - b. Why did Elisha initially hold the hand of Joash when he shot the arrows? Why did he remove his hand?
 - c. Is Joash’s failure something that we can learn from? In what way?
 - d. **Read 2 Kings 4:1-7.** Is Joash’s failure similar to what the woman in this passage experienced? Why or why not?
3. C.S. Lewis said, “It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires *not too strong, but too weak*. We are half hearted creatures, fooling around with drink, and sex, and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who want mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday by the sea. We are far too easily pleased.” Discuss your reaction to this quote.
 - a. If we desire God above all things, would we be more likely to seek Him more diligently? Would we fail, as Joash did, to be more fervent in our requests of Him?
 - b. **Read Ephesians 3:20-21.** Does this scripture give us confidence that God is able to exceed or expectations? How should we approach God, in prayer, with this knowledge?

TAKING IT HOME

Looking back at this week’s study, what is important for you to remember and why?

PRAISE & PRAYER REQUESTS

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