

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of September 13 - September 19

Desiring the Kingdom

2 Kings 4:1-7: God Sets the Captives Free

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

What has been the biggest challenge for you during the pandemic?

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

God is good to His people, no matter what circumstances we face. The God who has made the way of salvation for us will also provide for our daily needs.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. **Read 2 Kings 4:1-2.** How does the widow of the prophet's son describe her circumstance?
 - a. How would you describe her circumstance? How do you believe God views her circumstance?
 - b. **Read 1 Samuel 16:13** Based on this verse, do you perceive the use of oil as a metaphor for the Holy Spirit in scripture? Does this metaphor apply in 2 Kings 4:2? If so, in what way?
 - c. **Read 1 Corinthians 3:16.** Apply this verse to the situation of the widow in 2 Kings 4:2. In what ways are you encouraged by this verse?

2. **Read 2 Kings 4:3.** What instruction does Elisha give to the widow? What direction does he give her regarding the number of vessels to get? Why is this important?
 - a. **Read Matthew 14:15-19.** Compare the direction Jesus gave to the disciples in verses 16-18 to the direction Elisha gave the widow. What is the expectation given in both cases? What expectations do you have regarding God's ability to work miraculously?
 - b. **Read 2 Kings 4:4-6.** Describe how God fulfilled the widow's need. Do you believe that her blessing could have been even greater? Why or why not?
 - c. **Read Ephesians 3:20-21.** What does this verse say about what our expectation should be regarding God's promise? What is the "power at work within us" (ESV)? Has there been a time in your life when God has used this power to provide for you in a troubling situation?
3. **Read Matthew 6:25-33.** Describe in your own words what the proper response should be to this passage. How should our faith help when we are in times of need?
 - a. **Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10.** What does this passage tell us about God's response to our requests? Does the Apostle Paul's reaction to God's response to his prayer encourage or discourage you? Explain your answer.
 - b. If questioned, how would you explain the difference in what Jesus says in Matthew 6:25-33 to the response Paul received in 2 Corinthians 12:7-10?

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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