

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of September 20 - September 26

Desiring the Kingdom

2 Kings 4:8-37 - The Cure for the Curse

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Do you have any travel plans for the coming year?

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

Our lives on Earth are tainted by barrenness and death, but the good news of the gospel is that Jesus has brought us the cure for the curse.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. **Read 2 Kings 4:8-17.** What stands out to you after reading this passage of scripture? The Shunammite woman seemed to have all she needed, but what appeared to be missing? What, do you think, prevented the woman from asking Elisha for a child?
 - a. **Read Proverbs 30:15-16.** Based on these verses, how do you believe barrenness was viewed in these times.
 - b. **Read Psalm 127:3-5.** Based on these verses, how do you believe the woman's husband would have felt?
 - c. Barrenness is only one result of man's fall from grace. If you were to tell someone why people suffer hardships, how might you explain it to them in a way that reveals a merciful God?

2. **Read 2 Kings 4:18-25.** Describe and explain the Shunammite woman's actions in these verses. How do you explain her statement, "All is well"? What does this statement convey in terms of her faith? What do you believe her expectation is?
 - a. **Read Matthew 15:21-28.** Compare the Canaanite woman's story to the story of the Shunammite woman. In what ways are they similar? In what ways are they different? How are we encouraged to display faith in our lives by these stories?
 - b. **Read Hebrew 11:1.** Discuss this definition of faith in relationship to the faith shown by the Shunammite woman. If asked about your faith, how would you describe it in context with this verse?
3. **Read 2 Kings 4:26-37.** How was the woman's faith rewarded? Do you see this story as a foreshadowing of what Jesus has done for us? If so, how would you describe it to others?
 - a. **Read Romans 5:12-15 and Galatians 3:13.** Discuss the meaning of these verses and how they relate to the story of the Shunammite woman.
 - b. God performed two miracles for the woman: curing her barrenness and resurrecting her child. Is the gift of salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus any less of a miracle? Why or why not?

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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