

Bible Stories for Adults

Elisha

2 Kings 2 - 8, 13

Opening

Gathering: Share a story of when God was salvation for you.

Today's Focus: Elisha was called by God to demonstrate to Israel that He alone is our salvation.

Key Verses: *God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord, is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation.* Isaiah 12:2

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved. Acts 4:12

Opening Prayer

Lesson

Elijah (1 Kings 15 - 2 Kings 2)

Why did God send Elijah to Israel during Ahab's reign?

1 Kings 18:21 = To turn the people back to Him, away from Baal

What did *Elijah's* name mean and why was it significant?

1 Kings 18:39 = *Elijah* means *Yahweh is God*. He came to show this

How was Elijah's life on earth ended?

2 Kings 2:11 = Chariot of fire took him to heaven in a whirlwind

Did Elijah's power and role in God's plan mean that he was more than just a man?

James 5:16-18 = No, he was a faithful man who prayed

Elijah's Effect (2 Kings 1)

Was Elijah ever able to convince Ahab that *Yahweh is God*?

1 Kings 21:20, 27 = Yes, Ahab mourned the punishment for his rejection of the Lord

Did Ahab then begin to trust God and look to Him in time of need?

1 Kings 22:6-8 = Ahab turned to Baal prophets (not God's) for advice in fighting Aram

Maybe Ahab was just stupid or stubborn. Did Ahab's son learn better?

2 Kings 1:2 = Ahaziah called on Baal-Zebub in response to injuries

Elijah's Successor (1 Kings 19:15-21)

Who selected Elijah's successor and who was it? = *Elisha* means *God is Salvation*

1 Kings 19:15a, 16b = God sent Elijah to anoint Elisha as successor

Was Elisha an experienced prophet and how did Elijah tell him he was chosen?

1 Kings 19:19 = A successful farmer's son; Threw cloak on him (no words) & kept walking

Did Elisha understand what Elijah had done?

1 Kings 19:20 = Yes, took action like he HAD to go and follow Elijah

How did Elisha respond to Elijah's comment letting him choose to go or not?

1 Kings 19:21 = Offered sacrifice of praise for selection and went

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The Inheritance (*2 Kings 2:1-18*)

How faithful of a servant was Elisha?

2 Kings 2:2 (1-6) = He stayed with Elijah from Gilgal, Bethel & Jericho

Did anyone know Elijah was leaving?

2 Kings 2:3,7-8 (3-8) = Other prophets knew, 50 watched Elijah & Elisha cross Jordan

What did Elisha want when Elijah asked if there were any last requests before he left?

2 Kings 2:9-10 = Inherit Elijah's role as God's prophet to Israel

Did God allow Elisha to see Elijah leave and thereby inherit the role of God's prophet?

2 Kings 2:11-12 = Yes

How was it made known that Elisha was now Elijah's successor?

2 Kings 2:13-15 = Elisha repeated the miracle of parting the Jordan

God Is Salvation (*2 Kings 2:19-25*)

How did Elisha immediately make his point that salvation is from God?

2 Kings 2:19-22 = Miracle where the Lord healed poisonous water at Jericho

How did Elisha also show that without God there is no salvation? = Hair was a sign of strength and vigor

2 Kings 2:23-25 = Sent bear to youths who profaned God's prophet

What was so bad about the youths calling Elisha names?

2 Chronicles 36:16 = Mocking God's messenger will arouse the wrath of the Lord

Salvation from Hopeless Circumstances (*2 Kings 3*)

What did Joram (Ahab's son) plan in response when Moab refused to be subject to Israel?

2 Kings 3:4-6 (1-6) = To take them back by force

Did Joram look to God for help in this effort? = Pass through Judah & Edom to attack from south (v8)

2 Kings 3:7 (7-8) = No, he turned to Jehoshaphat of Judah (also Edom since subject to Judah)

What happened to the armies that showed the need for God's salvation?

2 Kings 3:9-10 = Ran out of water after marching 7 days (long way around Dead Sea)

How did Elisha respond to Joram's request for salvation?

2 Kings 3:11-14 = Go ask your Baal prophets (Jehoshaphat's idea to see Elisha)

What miracle did Elisha use to show God's salvation?

2 Kings 3:16-18, 20 (15-20) = Dig ditches in desert, they filled with water

How did God use this to save Israel from the Moabites?

2 Kings 3:22-24 (21-27) = Water looked like blood to Moabites, killed when trying to plunder

Salvation Through Life to Individuals (*2 Kings 4:1-37*)

How did Elisha show God's salvation to a widow about to lose her sons?

2 Kings 4:1-5, 7 (1-7) = Paid debts with ever-flowing oil

How did Elisha show God's salvation to the barren Shunammite woman?

2 Kings 4:8, 13-17 (8-17) = He gave her a son - she had no other needs

What happened that gave Elisha another opportunity to help the woman?

2 Kings 4:18-20 = The boy died

What did Elisha do that showed God's salvation?

2 Kings 4:32-35 (21-35) = He prayed and brought him back to life

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Salvation Through Nourishment (2 Kings 4:38-44)

How did Elisha show God's salvation to a group of starving prophets?

2 Kings 4:38-41 = He made poisonous stew edible

Which of Jesus' miracles did Elisha perform a small version?

2 Kings 4:42-44 = Fed 100 with 20 loaves (Feeding of 5000 – Matthew 14:15-21)

Salvation Through Health (2 Kings 5:1-12)

Who was Naaman and what was his problem? = Aram was Israel's enemy

2 Kings 5:1 = Commander of Aram army, had leprosy (any of a variety of skin diseases)

How did a servant girl direct Naaman to the Lord?

2 Kings 5:2-3 = Told that prophet in Israel could cure his leprosy

How did Joram misinterpret the letter sent by the king of Aram?

2 Kings 5:6-7 (4-9) = Thought Aram was picking a fight by asking for the impossible

What was Elisha's solution for Naaman's problem? = Sent messenger

2 Kings 5:10 = Wash 7 times in the Jordan

How was Naaman's cleansing like our cleansing from the leprosy of sin?

Acts 2:38 = *Be baptized ... for the forgiveness of your sins*

How excited was Naaman about this miracle answer from God?

2 Kings 5:11-12 = Angry at stupid suggestion, expected magic & to see Elisha

Was Elisha's instruction foolish?

1 Corinthians 1:25 = *Foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom*

Salvation Is a Gift (2 Kings 5:13-27)

How does Naaman's response remind us of our own questioning?

John 4:48 = *Unless you people see miraculous signs & wonders you will never believe*

What was the main purpose of Elisha's solution?

Hebrews 11:1 = To build Naaman's faith

Did Elisha's solution have the desired effect?

2 Kings 5:13-17 (13-19) = Yes, he confessed his faith & promised to follow only God

Why wouldn't Elisha accept Naaman's gift?

Acts 8:20 = Can't buy God's gift of saving grace

How was Elisha's servant punished for his faith in wealth instead of God?

2 Kings 5:20, 24-27 (20-27) = He was given Naaman's leprosy

Salvation From Daily Worries (2 Kings 6:1-7)

How did Elisha show God's salvation while prophets built a meeting place?

2 Kings 6:5-7 (1-7) = Made a borrowed axhead float

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Salvation From Enemies (2 Kings 6:8-23)

- How did Elisha protect the king of Israel from personal threats by Aram?
2 Kings 6:8-10 = Told him where Arameans would be camping
- What plan did the king of Aram make to eliminate this intelligence leak?
2 Kings 6:11-13 = Capture Elisha
- Why wasn't Elisha afraid when Aramean forces came to capture him?
2 Kings 6:15-17 (14-17) = He saw God's larger and more powerful army
- How did Elisha "single-handedly" capture the Aramean troops?
2 Kings 6:18-20 = God *blinded* them and Elisha led them into Samaria
- What was the fate of these men and how did this affect the war?
2 Kings 6:21-23 = They were fed and released, Aram withdrew

Salvation From Famine (2 Kings 6:24-8:6)

- What caused a famine in Samaria and how bad did it get? = Ate kids
2 Kings 6:24-26, 28-29 (24-30) = Besieged by Aram, Costly donkey heads & seed pods
- Who did King Joram blame the famine on?
2 Kings 6:31 (31-33) = Elisha (His father Ahab had blamed famine on Elijah)
- What did Elisha promise that would show God's salvation? = Seah is about 7 quarts
2 Kings 7:1-2 = Lots of food would be real cheap within 24 hours
- How did God make this happen?
2 Kings 7:3, 5-7, 16 (3-20) = God made Arameans hear great army, ran away leaving camp
- How did Elisha protect the Shunammite woman from another famine?
2 Kings 8:1, 3, 6 (1-6) = Sent her away, land returned when she came back

Salvation Through Death (2 Kings 13)

- How did Elisha show God's salvation to Israel from his death bed?
2 Kings 13:14, 17 (13-17) = Had Jehoash shoot arrow for victory over Aram at Aphek
- How did Elisha affect other victories over the Arameans?
2 Kings 13:18-19 = Had Jehoash strike ground, did 3 times, once for each victory
- How did Elisha's body show God's salvation from death well after his death?
2 Kings 13:20-21 = Dead man revived when body touched Elisha's bones

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. What ministry have I inherited from a faithful servant of God?
(2 Kings 2:1-15; Joshua 13:33; 18:7; Psalm 61:5; Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 8:17; Hebrews 13:7)
2. What ministry do I faithfully perform that can become an inherited blessing for someone else?
(1 Kings 19:16b; Deuteronomy 31:1-8; Acts 20:32; 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14; Titus 1:5)
3. In what ways has God been my salvation?
(2 Kings 2:19-22; Exodus 15:1-2; Psalm 27; 40; Isaiah 33:2; Matthew 1:21)
4. How has God shown His salvation to me when I have encountered seemingly hopeless circumstances?
(2 Kings 4; Exodus 14:10-15:2; 1 Kings 19; Jonah 2; Luke 8:22-25)
5. How have I tried to earn the salvation that God offers as a free gift?
(2 Kings 5; Acts 8:20; Ephesians 2:8-9; 1 Thessalonians 5:9; Titus 2:11)