

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

Bible Stories for Adults

Elisha

Page 2

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

Bible Stories for Adults

Elisha

Page 3

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

Bible Stories for Adults

Elisha

Page 4

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*)