

LESSON 3—ELISHA, Part 2: SURROUNDED

Bible Reference: 2 Kings 6:1-8-23

Key Verse: Romans 8:28—And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who are called according to his purpose.

ITEMS NEEDED:

Four coffee cups (the kind with lids so that students can't see what's inside) with drinks described in the Opening Activity.

OPENING ACTIVITY

Ask for four volunteers who are willing to choose a cup and take a drink from it without knowing what's inside.

Fill the four cups with:

- Chocolate milk
- Pickle juice
- Coke
- Prune juice

Let each volunteer choose a cup and when you tell them to, have them all take a good, big drink.

Afterward, ask if they can identify what they drank.

Application

SAY: You made a choice but you didn't have any idea what you would get. Sometimes bad things happen in our lives because we make bad choices but sometimes we do everything right but because someone else did something wrong, our lives are affected. Sometimes bad things happen to good people but when you keep your eyes on Christ, you can look through the situation to what God can do through the situation.

BIBLE LESSON

(Based on 2 Kings 6:1-8-23)

REPEAT after me: *Give thanks In EVERYTHING, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus—1 Thessalonians 5:18.*

SAY: Because God is so good and we can trust Him, we can give thanks even when “bad” things happen.

ASK: **Who remembers what last week’s Bible stories were about?** (We started learning about Elisha—the poison pot of stew and the floating axhead.) *Briefly review these with your students.*

SAY: Today we have another story about Elisha. Last week we saw how he didn’t just look at a bad situation—He had a unique way of looking beyond the situation to what God could do. You’re really going to see this happen in today’s story.

Bible Story

Choose 2 volunteers and give them signs that say: Elisha and Servant.

SAY: In both stories last week something bad happened, the people responded one way, Elisha responded in faith and God did something great. Listen in today’s story for these same four things:

- What was the bad thing that happened?
- How did the people respond?
- How did Elisha respond?
- And what did God do?

Read 2 Kings 6:1-8-14 from your Bible

Summarize and explain what’s happening.

Read 2 Kings 6:15 from your Bible

ASK: **How would you feel if you woke up and a massive army had surrounded the city you were in?**

ASK: **What if they had come to kill you? What would you do?**

ASK: **You’ve seen how Elisha responded in the past—What do you think he’s going to do?** (Let’s find out...)

Read 2 Kings 6:16-23 from your Bible

Summarize and explain what’s happening.

ASK: **Did the end of the story surprise you? Why or why not?**

ASK: **In today’s story, what was the “bad” thing that happened?** (The King of Aram sent a large army to get Elisha.)

ASK: **How did the people respond?** (Elisha’s servant was scared.)

ASK: How did Elisha respond? (He wasn't shaken. He just acted in faith by praying that God would make them blind.)

ASK: What did God do? (He blinded the army so that Elisha—one man—could capture them all.)

SAY: Elisha had a special way of looking beyond the situation to what he knew God could do in that situation and he immediately acted in faith:

Hold up one finger—ONE—When Elisha faced a “bad” situation, he didn't accept the situation for what he saw.

Hold up two fingers—TWO—Elisha didn't focus on the “bad”; He focused on God and what God could do.

Hold up three fingers—THREE—Elisha wasn't afraid to act in faith or to ask God for the impossible. He wasn't afraid that God wouldn't come through for him.

Hold up four fingers—FOUR—Elisha never seemed surprised when God did something great because it's what he expected.

SAY: The next time you're in a tough spot, be like Elisha—Look beyond what you see to what God can do and don't be afraid to act in faith or to ask God for the impossible.

KEY VERSE

SAY: Raise your hand if you've ever made a promise.

Raise your hand if someone has ever made a promise to you. Raise your hand if someone has ever broken a promise to you.

ASK: Does God make promises? (Yes, the Bible is full of them.)

ASK: Will God ever lie? (God will never lie. He is truth.)

SAY: In the Bible God never has to say, “I will do such and such...I promise!” If God says it, He will do it. His Word is true, and today I want you to see a promise that God has given us in the Bible.

Read Romans 8:28

ASK: What does this verse say that God will do? (Turn or work all things to the good. All includes everything, even “bad” situations. When God says “all,” He means “all.”)

ASK: To whom was this promise given? (To those who love Him and are called according to His purpose.)

SAY: Those who have given their lives to Jesus are the ones who are called according to His purpose and the Bible is very clear that those who love Him will obey Him. In other words, if you have given your life to Jesus (you've been called according to His purpose) and you love Him (which leads to you following and obeying Him), then you can know **FOR A FACT** that God will take every situation that comes your way and work it to your good.

OPTIONAL—Share a personal story of how something bad happened in your life and how God worked it to your good.

SAY: Knowing who God is, seeing what He has done in other people lives and knowing His Word and promises like this are just another reason that you can make the choice to rejoice.

Prayer—Take prayer requests and pray with your students.

Find more resources at www.330resources.org.

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