

This week we will study more about Elisha and about a young girl who shared her faith, while living as a captive in a strange land.



Torchlight

“The parents of that Hebrew maid, as they taught her of God, did not know the destiny that would be hers. But they were faithful to their trust; and in the home of the captain of the Syrian host, their child bore witness to the God whom she had learned to honour.”
– Prophets & Kings p. 246

Naaman and the Little Maid



SUNDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear God, thank You for blessing me with good health. Help me to be a witness for You and to be faithful in all that I do. Please come into my heart and change me, Lord. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - PSALM 34:7

“The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

2 Kings 5:1-14



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

Captain Naaman was a high-ranking officer in the army of Syria. Naaman had leprosy and back then it was an incurable skin disease from which people died. The Syrians were a 'thorn in the side' for the kingdom of Israel and were constantly at war with them. During one of those conflicts the Syrians had taken a young Israelite girl back with them. She became a maid to Captain Naaman's wife. Despite the circumstances this young girl found herself in, she witnessed of her great faith in God and suggested that Naaman go to Israel to be healed by the prophet Elisha. On hearing this hopeful news, Naaman asked permission from the king of Syria to go to Israel and find Elisha. Permission was granted and a letter sent, via Naaman, demanding that the king of Israel heal him! When King Jehoram, or Joram as he was also known, got the letter he was pretty upset as he thought the king of Syria was looking for some way to quarrel with him. Verse 8 tells us that, when Elisha heard of this, he told the king to send Naaman to him. But instead of Elisha greeting



Naaman, he sent his servant Gehazi with instructions to dip in the Jordan River seven times. Captain Naaman was not happy with this arrangement because, one, the rivers were a lot clearer and more beautiful in Syria and two, he wanted Elisha the prophet to come and miraculously heal him himself. Captain Naaman was about to leave in a 'huff', but a wise and brave servant reasoned with him. He relented and went to bathe in the Jordan, dipping seven times. Immediately, he was healed. It's interesting that Captain Naaman wanted some miraculous demonstration of healing from the prophet himself. Instead, Naaman had only to be obedient to the simple instructions and have faith that God would heal him.

FIND A WORD

In our reading today, how many times did the word 'letter' appear?

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





MONDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear Lord, thank You for the blessings and promises You provide in the Bible, which give me strength. Help me to be obedient and not to want more than I already have. I want to be grateful and thankful for all You do for me. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - PSALM 34:7

“The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

2 Kings 5:15-27



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

Naaman, in thankfulness for his healing, returned to Elisha to give him some gifts. Elisha refused these gifts as he knew that the miracle was from God and not of himself. In verse 15, Captain Naaman acknowledged God as the true and only God. Verse 17 also tells us that Naaman told Elisha that he would no longer offer sacrifices to other gods. After Naaman had left, Gehazi decided that, although his master Elisha had refused the gifts, he would like some. Gehazi ran after Captain Naaman and asked for some clothes and silver, lying in the process, telling him that Elisha had sent him. Naaman, none the wiser, gladly gave him the things for which he asked. Gehazi then hid the gifts and went back to Elisha. Gehazi then lied again and told Elisha that he had not gone anywhere when Elisha asked where he had been. But Elisha knew where Gehazi had gone because God told him. Gehazi had dishonoured God. Gehazi knew better, as he had been with Elisha for many years witnessing Elisha's holy life and the many, many miracles that God had performed through him. Gehazi had lied to Captain Naaman and lied to Elisha, and because of this Gehazi contracted the leprosy from which Naaman had been cured.

This is a sad story. Gehazi had been blessed with an amazing opportunity of working alongside a prophet of God and he 'blew it' because of a decision he chose to make. Gehazi became covetous and it ruled him. Be careful that covetousness does not overtake you.



FIND A WORD

In today's Bible reading, how many times did the word 'servant/servants' appear? _____

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





TUESDAY

LET'S PRAY Dearest Heavenly Father, thank You for providing the angels to keep me safe. Help me to be kind to the people that are not kind to me. Please let your light shine through me so others can learn more about Your wonderful love for them. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - PSALM 34:7

“The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

2 Kings 6:1-23



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

The first seven verses of our reading today tell us of another miracle of Elisha. One of the three schools of the prophets needed expanding as they had outgrown their buildings. The prophets went down to the Jordan where the trees were plentiful. In the process of cutting down some trees, one of the axe heads flew off the handle into the river and sank. As it was borrowed, it needed to be rescued. God worked an amazing miracle through Elisha to retrieve it. God cares even for the little things, He is so good! Verse 8 onwards tells us of another story about the Syrians. The king of Syria wanted to make war with Israel. But twice his plans were ruined because God told the plans to Elisha, who warned King Jehoram. When the Syrian king found out what was happening he was very angry and wanted to get rid of Elisha. He found out that Elisha was at Dothan and his army surrounded the town at night. When Elisha's servant awoke in the morning he discovered they were surrounded by the Syrian army! In distress and fright the servant went to Elisha and told him. Elisha wasn't worried about the Syrian army, as he knew the heavenly army was looking after them. Elisha prayed and asked God to reveal to his servant the mighty angel host, which was between them and the Syrian army, protecting them. God then blinded the Syrian army and Elisha led them into the city of Samaria. Then God gave them back their eyesight. When King Jehoram saw them he wanted to kill them all but Elisha told him to provide a feast for them instead. After this the Syrian army left and they didn't bother the Israelites again for some time.

Have a look at *Matthew 5:44*.



FIND A WORD

In today's reading, how many times does the name 'Samaria' appear?

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





WEDNESDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear Father, thank You for the blessing of food to eat. Help me to understand what I read in the Bible today and to believe it as well. Please increase my faith and trust in You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - PSALM 34:7

“The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

2 Kings 6:24-33
& 7:1-2



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

Today we look at the first part of an amazing story. There was a famine in Israel and the people were hungry. During this time the King of Syria decided to have his army besiege, or surround, the city of Samaria. The Syrians hoped to starve the people and make them so desperate that they would surrender. They couldn't go out of the city to find food because of the army outside the walls and, because of the famine, they couldn't grow any food inside the city. They and their animals were starving. They ended up eating bird droppings and even their own children! The King of Israel was desperate and threatened to kill Elisha, because he had disobeyed God he blamed God for all his trouble. He thought that God obviously wouldn't come to his aid now so he might as well slay Elisha, the symbol of God's presence.



The king sent a messenger to Elisha's house to get him, but God warned Elisha that the man was coming. The king himself was just behind the messenger and, after the king threatened him, Elisha gave him a prophecy. He told the king that the very next day an abundance of food would be available to the people in the city. An officer of the king expressed disbelief that such a thing could happen. Elisha told the officer that he would see it with his own eyes, but he would not get to eat any of the food. We need to ask God to help us have more faith in what He can do for us. Read *Mark 9:16-27*.

FIND A WORD

In today's Bible reading, how many times did the word 'shekels/shekel' appear? _____

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





THURSDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear God, please forgive me for my sins. Change my heart and help me to be more like Jesus. Help me to be kind and helpful to others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - PSALM 34:7

“The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

2 Kings 7:3-20



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

The story of the Samaritan siege continues today with four leprosy men. Back in Bible times, lepers had to keep to themselves and were not allowed to associate with their families and communities as their leprosy could spread to others. Because of this they were outside the gates of the city of Samaria. They were very hungry. They knew there was no food inside the city so their only choice was to go to the Syrian encampment and beg for food. When they arrived at the Syrian camp they discovered that it was deserted. Verse 6 says that God caused a noise of an approaching army to scare the Syrians into fleeing for their lives. This they did, leaving everything behind. The lepers, who were starving, found some food and ate then carried away some Syrian treasures and hid them. This they did several times then realised they could not keep this good news to themselves. They knew a whole city was starving. The lepers went and spoke to the gate keepers of the city, who in turn went to the king's household. When the king was told, he was sceptical. He didn't believe the Syrian army would just leave everything behind. He thought it may be a trap to lure the people out of the city then ambush them. One servant convinced the king to let a search party go and see what was going on. When the search party returned they confirmed the report of the lepers. The king's officer, who was disbelieving of the prediction of Elisha, was trampled to death at the city gate by the rush of people escaping to get food. Elisha's prophecy did come true. The event happened the very next day just as he predicted. The people brought back so much food it even sold for the price that Elisha predicted it would be sold for!



FIND A WORD

How many times was the word 'seah/seahs' mentioned in our bible reading today? _____

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





FRIDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear Lord, thank You for taking care of me this past week. Help me to be faithful in worshipping You alone. Please don't let me get caught up in things of this world. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - PSALM 34:7

“The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

2 Kings 9:1-13;
10:28-36 & 13:1-9



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

Today's reading concentrates on two of the kings of the northern kingdom of Israel, Jehu and his son Jehoahaz. Elisha sent one of the prophets to anoint Jehu to be the next king of Israel, with one object in mind, to destroy the house of Ahab, and get rid of Baal worship. What Jehu did was pretty gruesome. He killed King Jehoram, or Joram as he was also known, King Ahaziah of Judah, Ahab's wife Jezebel and all the other people associated with Baal worship. You can read all about this in 2 Kings 9:14-37 and 10:1-26. Even though Jehu did what God asked, he still worshipped the golden calves which King Jeroboam 1 set up. After 28 years of rule he died and his son Jehoahaz came to the throne. In our reading in 2 Kings 13:1-9, Jehoahaz 'did evil in the sight of the LORD' and God allowed the kings of Syria to harass the Israelites. King Jehu on one hand did what God commanded him to do, to get rid of Baal worship, but on the other hand he still worshipped the golden calves. People watch us to see whether we are the authentic Christians we say we are. Do we worship God and the world at the same time? It's something to think about.



FIND A WORD

In today's reading how many times did the word 'oil' appear in the reading of 2 Kings 9:1-13? _____

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





SABBATH

LET'S PRAY Dear Father, thank You for another Sabbath day of rest. Help me to be a blessing to someone today. Thank You, Lord, for your love for me and for being so patient with me. Help me to be patient and show forgiveness to others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - PSALM 34:7

“The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

2 Kings 11:1-4, 12-18
& 12:1-16



THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

After King Ahaziah of the southern kingdom of Judah was destroyed by King Jehu from the northern tribe of Israel, Ahaziah's mother Athaliah put herself on the throne and became queen. Athaliah destroyed all the heirs to the throne except one. Ahaziah's sister, Jehosheba, hid baby Joash, or Jehoash as he was also known, and his nurse, in one of the rooms in the temple. Here he remained hidden for six years. When Joash was seven years old, the priest Jehoiada decided that the time had come to proclaim Joash as the rightful king. The people of Judah were pleased with this, as Athaliah was a wicked queen. With all the commotion this created, Athaliah came out of the palace to see what was going on. Jehoiada commanded the soldiers to take her away and she was killed. Because Joash was a child king, Jehoiada, the priest, helped Joash rule. The Bible tells us in chapter 12 that King Joash wanted to repair the temple as it had not been looked after during the three previous rulers. A chest was put outside the temple to collect money to help with repairs.

The sad history of the kings both in the northern and southern kingdoms is filled very unpleasant events. The treachery and killing is a sad reminder of what happens when we stray from God's commands. When the Children of Israel demanded a king, God and Samuel explained what would happen in the future if they went down this path. But they chose this path anyway. The bright spot in today's reading is that Joash wanted to restore the temple as he wanted his nation to worship God. At the beginning of the devotional we looked at Naaman being restored. God also wants our relationship with Him to be renewed every day.



SABBATH QUIZ

1. Who told Captain Naaman about Elisha being able to heal him?

2. How many times did Naaman have to dip in the Jordan? _____
3. What was the name of Elisha's servant? _____
4. How many lepers discovered the abandoned Syrian camp?

5. How old was Joash when he became king? _____