

## SURROUNDED BY HIS LOVE

We must live in faith even during times of uncertainty, knowing that we are surrounded by God's love.

### KEY POINTS

- ❖ The story of the prophet Elisha and the Aramean King is a stunning story.
- ❖ It's the kind of story that would do well as a Hollywood movie because it almost seems like a fairy tale. What this story shows is the continuing love and care of the Almighty God, with one of its main themes being the dynamic of having faith in God during times of uncertainty.
- ❖ Our tale begins with the King of Aram plotting an attack against the children of Israel. For those who don't know, the King of Aram was an enemy of the nation of Israel, who would stop at nothing to conquer them.
- ❖ But what the King of Aram did not realize was that God had an expression—a symbol—of His presence stationed in Israel. That expression was the prophet Elisha. That expression of God was also demonstrated through God's relationship with Elisha.
- ❖ The Bible lets us know in 1 Corinthians 12:27 that we are the body of Christ. We are the expression of God to those around us: our family, our friends, our acquaintances, our enemies, and even strangers.
- ❖ The expression of God is seen in our lives through our relationship with God.
- ❖ Elisha was a prophet who was sensitive to the voice of God and it was through him that God would warn the nation of Israel of any type of danger.
- ❖ It is in this same way that we must serve our community and "...let [our] good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise [our] heavenly Father" (Matthew 5:16).
- ❖ It is interesting to note that Elisha's king at the time was an evil man by the name of Joram. He was the son of King Ahab...who happened to be one of the most evil kings in the history of Israel.
- ❖ But still Elisha allowed himself to be a vessel for God while in service to King Joram and Israel, even though the king was not following the word of God.
- ❖ This is a great example of an expression of faith during a time of uncertainty.
- ❖ If we continue reading 2 Kings 6, we will see that shortly after God gave King Joram an amazing victory over the Arameans, the enemy came up against him yet again. So, what did the king of Israel do to confront this latest onslaught? He sent people to kill God's servant, Elisha.
- ❖ Now Elisha wasn't really serving King Joram or even the nation of Israel—He was serving the living God.

### KEY SCRIPTURE: 2 Kings 6:8-23 NLT

- ❖ As followers of Jesus we must ensure that our attention is constantly on Jesus. We must "work with enthusiasm, as though [we are] working for the Lord rather than for people" (Ephesians 6:7).
- ❖ We must be like Jesus and allow God to use us to bless *everyone*. Those whom we feel deserve to be blessed and those whom we feel do not deserve to be blessed.
- ❖ Elisha's service to God caused him to come under attack by the enemy of Israel.
- ❖ The King of Aram sent an army to surround Elisha and to the natural eye it looked like Elisha was in a bad situation.
- ❖ That's what Elisha's servant, who was with him, saw and that is what everyone else would have seen: a couple of people in a bad situation (2 Kings 6:15).
- ❖ But "we walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Cor. 5:7).
- ❖ Where Elisha's servant was walking by sight, Elisha himself was walking by faith.
- ❖ Even though Elisha and his servant were surrounded by the army of the enemy, Elisha could look beyond their present circumstance and see that they were surrounded by the love of God, which was expressed by the image of chariots of fire that encompassed the enemy.
- ❖ Elisha's servant required his spiritual eyes to be opened in order to see that they were surrounded by the love of God (2 Kings 6:17).
- ❖ We also need to have our eyes opened, to understand that even in uncertainty we are surrounded by the love of God.
- ❖ So, let us live in faith even during times of uncertainty, knowing that we are surrounded by God's love.

### DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Have you ever encountered a time of uncertainty in your life? If comfortable, share. What steps did you take, or God make you take, to increase your faith?
2. Has God used you to bless someone you felt did not deserve to be blessed? What did you do and what did you learn from the situation?
3. "We are the expression of God to those around us." What are some of the ways our lives can show God to others?
4. Pray and ask God to open your eyes, so that you may see His love even in times of uncertainty.

### PRAYER TIME

Lord, please help me to live in faith even during times of uncertainty, knowing that I am surrounded by Your love.

## WEEK OF SUNDAY, AUGUST 1, 2021

### NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) 🧠 (Think about)

! (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↺ (Must share)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Start-up: What is the item you turn to for comfort? What is it about this item that causes this effect?

Go deeper with your Life Group family.  
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD  
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline