

# LIGHTHOUSE GROUP CURRICULUM

2 Kings 6:8-23

## LEADER'S STUDY

### Jesus Commands the Superior Forces

#### 2 Kings 6:8-23

#### What is happening?

About 900 years before Christ was born, the king of Syria (“Aram” in some Bible versions) went to war with Israel. But every time he tried to make a move, Israel anticipated it and avoided the attack. The king thought there must be a spy in his court, but a servant told him that the prophet Elisha knew the Syrians’ plans and warned Israel’s king about them. (The scriptures don’t spell it out, but we get the idea that it was the Holy Spirit who kept Elisha informed.) Seeing Elisha as Public Enemy #1, the king sent a large force to seize him.

When Elisha’s servant saw Syria’s horses and chariots arrayed against the city, he flew into a panic. But Elisha prayed that God would open the man’s eyes to see the armies of God surrounding Elisha. The servant was then able to see the angels, displaying a power greater than the enemy’s. What happened next demonstrated God’s mercy toward all concerned.

#### Where is the gospel?

Though this passage never mentions Jesus by name, elsewhere in the Scriptures He is called “The Lord of Hosts”—*hosts* meaning God’s angelic armies. (See Isaiah 44:6; and Revelation 1:17-18 confirms that this refers specifically to Jesus.) He is Commander in Chief of all God’s angels and has sovereign authority over the fallen angels who follow Satan (e.g., Matthew 17:18 and Mark 1:34). Jesus wielded that authority when He personally paid the price for all mankind’s sin on the cross, and He removed the curse of death once and for all when He rose from the grave.

Hebrews 1:14 tells us that God sends angels to help His people when we’re in difficulty. Jesus commands the angels where to go and what to do, and gives them the power to perform whatever task He assigns them. Even more significantly, He broke Satan’s hold on mankind forever. When Christ is our Redeemer and Leader, we are under His protection. We never again have to fear the unknown.

As you prepare for this week, ask yourself questions like these: Does Jesus have the power to change events when the situation seems out of control? Might He have already protected me from dangers I wasn’t even aware of? Can I expect Jesus to send angels to deliver me when I deny or reject His authority? If He should allow catastrophe in my life even when I’m faithful, can I still trust Him? How is God calling me to think and to live differently? How does this change my perspective today? How is God calling me to respond based on this scripture?

Spend some time reading and meditating on these truths as you prepare for your meeting. Be willing to share this with your group and invite them to join you in sharing how God is asking them to respond to His word. Be willing to share areas that He is calling you to “follow Him” and make clear “I” statements about how you are going to align with Him.

**Some helpful scriptures:** Joshua 5:13-15; Psalm 84:12; Matthew 28:18; Romans 8:31-39; Ephesians 6:12-13; Philippians 2:8-11; 1 John 4:4. What other places in scripture speak this same truth?

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## INTENTIONAL BIBLE READING

READ 2 Kings 6:8-23  
and meditate on it.

Read in the ESV or similar word-for-word  
translation.

Read it again in the NLT to get a thought-  
for-thought perspective. (The New Living  
Translation is particularly helpful with this  
passage)

Try to summarize the passage in your  
own words.

**Every verse of scripture points to the  
gospel. Look for how this passage  
points to Jesus and what He has done.**

## POTENTIAL STUDY QUESTIONS

These are just questions you might ask to help your  
group discussion. Don't feel like you need to answer  
all of these as a group

**What is significant, surprising or  
confusing from these verses?**

**What seems to be the main point of  
this letter?**

**How does this portion of scripture  
point to Jesus and the gospel?**

**What parts of this passage are  
challenging to your current way of  
thinking?**

**What did you discover or learn about  
God and His character from this  
passage?**

**What parts of this passage can you  
relate to?**

**Look at one or two key words and  
define them really clearly, then look at  
them in context with that definition.  
Does this change your understanding?**

**Why did God bring me to this scripture  
today?**

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

**How is God calling you to obey, based  
on this passage?**

or

**What is your "I will" statement?**

(Encourage everyone to steer clear of  
"we" or "us" or "Christians" statements)

**With whom are you going to share  
what you have learned?**

(This is a critical part of growth that is  
often overlooked. If we can share it with  
someone else it means we really  
understand it, it cements it in our own  
minds, it makes us accountable to the  
truth and it blesses the one who hears it.  
Rom 10:17)

**Based on this passage, what can we  
pray about and how should we pray?**