

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE**The power of God's word (and weakness of man's)**

Kings 2:15-5:27

APPLY // 2 KINGS 1:1-2:14

Main Idea: Where are you looking amidst the darkness of our world? Don't look to idols, judgement comes down. Look to the Lord whose words goes up

1. We are not tempted to look to the "lord of the flies" (Baal-zebul), but we are tempted to serve idols. Talk about idols around us and those your most tempted to follow and seek after in the darkness to relieve you.
2. Looking at the treatment of Ahaziah, the captains and their armies, discuss God's justice and his mercy. What should we expect from God?
3. Read 1 Cor. 1:18-31 and using Elijah's ministry, discuss how the Lord seems pleased in Christ to advance his Kingdom by his word through darkness.

OBSERVE & INTERPRET // 2 KINGS 2:15-5:27

Main Idea: God displays his glory in his merciful compassion toward those who are faithful.

1. Read 2 Kings 2:19-25. There are two different events that happen in these verses. Note what is happening, what is the outcome of each, and how they compare and contrast with each other. As an introduction to the Elisha narrative, how can these two events help to interpret the rest of the narrative? How do these events reinforce the mantle of Elijah's leadership has been passed to Elisha, and he has received a "double portion" (2 Kg. 2:9)?
2. Read 2 Kings 3:1-3. Who is Jehoram? What promise did the Lord make regarding Ahab's sons (cf. 1 Kg. 29)? What might we expect to happen to Jehoram?
3. Read 2 Kings 3:4-27. Provide a summary of what happens. How does Elisha's response to the king of Israel in verses 13-14 inform our reading of the narrative and God's faithfulness? How does this chapter reveal God's mercy, especially given Jehoram's character and the Lord's promise (which he will eventually fulfil, 9:24-26)?
4. Read 2 Kings 4:1-37. Identify the miracles performed by Elisha in this chapter. What do these miracles tell us about Elisha's ministry? How do these miracles demonstrate God's care for his people and his responsiveness to them? What is the relationship between God's mercy toward individuals through Elisha and the heart posture of those who receive mercy?
5. Read 2 Kings 5:1-27. Who is Naaman? Does he belong to the nation of Israel? How does God respond to him? Who is Gehazi? Does he belong to the nation of Israel? How does God respond to him? What is revealed in the character of God in how he treats Naaman and Gehazi?
6. Throughout the selected passage (2:15-5:27) locate evidence of God's mercy, even to non-Israelites. Identify evidence of God's judgment. How do God's acts of mercy and judgment to all peoples prepare us for and point us to Jesus Christ?

ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

QUESTION: Catch up from the break.