



Bob Chisholm

## “Seeing Is Believing”

2 Kings 6

### Small Group Plan

Consider carefully, these thoughts from Scottish minister George MacDonald:

*The next hour, the next moment, is as much beyond our grasp and as much in God’s care, as that a hundred years away. Care for the next minute is just as foolish as care for the morrow, or for a day in the next thousand years—in neither can we do anything, in both God is doing everything. Those claims only of the morrow which have to be prepared today are of the duty of today: the moment which coincides with work to be done, is the moment to be minded; the next is nowhere till God has made it.*

— From *An Anthology of George MacDonald*, Edited by C. S. Lewis

#### OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...

- Which phrase or idea from the quote above intrigues you or touches you most deeply? Explain.
- How would you define the providence of God?

#### LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

#### — THE MESSAGE FROM ELISHA —

2 Kings 6:8-10

<sup>8</sup> Now the king of Aram was at war with Israel. After conferring with his officers, he said, “I will set up my camp in such and such a place.” <sup>9</sup> The man of God sent word to the king of Israel: “Beware of passing that place, because the Arameans are going down there.” <sup>10</sup> So the king of Israel checked on the place indicated by the man of God. Time and again Elisha warned the king, so that he was on his guard in such places.

- What impresses you the most about this story?
- How much of our own National Security rests in the hands of God?
- Do you think is it important to pray for our nation? Explain.

## — THE ATTACK AGAINST ELISHA —

2 Kings 6:11-14

<sup>11</sup>This enraged the king of Aram. He summoned his officers and demanded of them, “Tell me! Which of us is on the side of the king of Israel?” <sup>12</sup>“None of us, my lord the king,” said one of his officers, “but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the very words you speak in your bedroom.” <sup>13</sup>“Go, find out where he is,” the king ordered, “so I can send men and capture him.” The report came back: “He is in Dothan.” <sup>14</sup>Then he sent horses and chariots and a strong force there. They went by night and surrounded the city.

- Why does the king of Aram immediately suspect that a traitor from among his officers is supplying Israel with information?
- Why does he quickly believe the story about Elisha?
- What does the king of Aram not see when he learns that his troop movements are being tracked by a prophet from the small village of Dothan?

## — THE REASSURANCE BY ELISHA —

2 Kings 6:15-17

<sup>15</sup>When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. “Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?” the servant asked. <sup>16</sup>“Don’t be afraid,” the prophet answered. “Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” <sup>17</sup>And Elisha prayed, “Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see.” Then the Lord opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

- How can the same crisis frighten one person, but not the other?
- How does the “calm in a crisis” attitude develop in a person’s heart?
- Reflect on Elisha’s words in verse 16. What do Elisha and Jesus (Luke 5:10) mean when they say, “Don’t be afraid?”
- What would we see today if our spiritual eyes were fully opened and not distracted?

## — THE LESSON FROM ELISHA —

2 Kings 6:18-23

<sup>18</sup>As the enemy came down toward him, Elisha prayed to the Lord, “Strike this army with blindness.” So he struck them with blindness, as Elisha had asked. <sup>19</sup>Elisha told them, “This is not the road and this is not the city. Follow me, and I will lead you to the man you are looking for.” And he led them to Samaria. <sup>20</sup>After they entered the city, Elisha said, “Lord, open the eyes of these men so they can see.” Then the Lord opened their eyes and they looked, and there they were, inside Samaria.

<sup>21</sup>When the king of Israel saw them, he asked Elisha, “Shall I kill them, my

father? Shall I kill them?" <sup>22</sup> "Do not kill them," he answered. "Would you kill those you have captured with your own sword or bow? Set food and water before them so that they may eat and drink and then go back to their master." <sup>23</sup> So he prepared a great feast for them, and after they had finished eating and drinking, he sent them away, and they returned to their master. So the bands from Aram stopped raiding Israel's territory.

- Why did Elisha lead the enemy into Israel's capital city?
- What did Elisha want the Aramean army to "see" and feel when their eyes were finally opened?
- Why did Elisha tell the king of Israel to feed rather than kill the enemy?

#### **USE IT / APPLY IT ...**

- List the current crises that bring fear to us today. How would you rank them? Explain.
- Elisha's servant "saw" God's "chariots of fire." What does God show us today that brings reassurance to our faith?
- How/when has God "opened your eyes" to his presence and providence?
- How have you seen God shrink hostility with kindness?
- In this ancient story God captured the enemy, not Israel (vs. 21-22). How does it change our approach to life to know that God is out front and in control?
- Close with prayer thanking God for his presence and his providence.