

Elisha: A Tale of Ridiculous Faith

Week 2: Ridiculous Faith

TALK IT OVER

KEY SCRIPTURE

2 Kings 3:9-20. For context, see 2 Kings 3:1-27.

**Note on 2 Kings 3:16: You might notice that different translations word this verse quite differently. Some (such as the NIV, ESV, or NLT) say "I [the Lord] will fill this valley with pools of water," while others (such as the NIV84, GNT, or NKJV) read, "Make this valley full of ditches." The first one sounds like it's all on God, the second sounds like there's something the soldiers need to do. Why the difference? It's a case where the Hebrew is not explicitly clear which translation is correct, and the case can be made from Scripture that either wording is appropriate. Exodus 14:14 is an example of God taking care of things without human participation and Joshua 6 is an example of God giving humans instructions for their role in what He's doing. It doesn't really matter, though. Whether God was instructing the men to dig ditches or just telling them what would happen, it is God alone who brings the water – regardless of the people's participation. Whether they were to dig or not, they were to be ready for God to act.*

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Day 1: 2 Kings 3:1-20

Day 2: 2 Kings 3:21-27

Day 3: Matthew 6:25-34

Day 4: Colossians 1:19-23

Day 5: Romans 8:18-25

Day 6: Philippians 4:10-14

Day 7: Revelation 21:1-7

Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- If you could magically have one thing that would make life better, what would it be?

Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Read and discuss 2 Kings 3:1-27. What big problem do the armies encounter (v. 9)? Why is it only at this point of desperation that they turn to a prophet of God (v. 11)? What does this say about the kings? About us?
- How do you think Elisha's advice will set with the soldiers awaiting relief from thirst (vv. 16-18)? **See note on the left.*
- What purpose does the water fulfill (vv. 22-23)?

Start sharing. Choose some questions to create openness.

- Describe a time when a great need drove you to depend on God. How was it a blessing?
- What are some great needs you are facing right now? How are you depending on God to meet your needs?
- Does God still come to the aid of His people in dramatic ways? In what ways have you personally experienced God's faithfulness in your life?
- What's one big dream for your life that you need God's help to accomplish?
- What is something you can regularly do to strengthen your trust in God?

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

Heavenly Father, thank you for taking care of us and providing for our needs. When we are tempted to worry that it's all up to us, remind us that You are where all good things come from. Help us to trust You and Your promises for our lives and give us eyes to see the everything we have as a blessing from You. Amen.

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Commit to looking for the blessing in the need. When faced with a need, step back and look for how God might be inviting you to depend on Him.
- Write down or memorize God's promises for you from His Word. You can start with the verses to the left – but those aren't the only ones! Find ways to remind yourself of those promises when things are good and when things are bad.