

The Ministry of Elisha

Lesson 4: We Walk by Faith

Introduction

Think about the times in Israel's history where the LORD fought for his people and won the victory for them. **Name some of them here:**

In the portion of God's Word we will cover in this lesson, the LORD proves his power to the people of Israel, as he had done so many times before, in the hope that they might turn from their evil ways and come back to him. While such a return to the LORD may have taken place, it was oftentimes short-lived.



NOTE: Tonight's lesson involves what is called a **"TPS" learning strategy: "Think" (T) – "Pair" (P) – "Share" (S).** The learning process moves from the individual (who "thinks" about the text) to discussion with someone else ("pair") to "sharing" with the entire group / the web instructor.

I. Seeing.. Yet Not Seeing (2 Ki 6:8-23)

Aram is on the offensive again against Israel, yet the enemies of God's people cannot conceive what they are really up against.

Background and Map

The Text of 2 Ki 8-23 (read aloud)

Using a "TPS" strategy, discuss the following (about 10 min.)

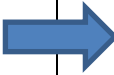

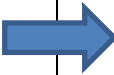

1. *Think – Pair – Share:* Explain how **vs. 9-10, and vs. 13-14** are a vivid illustration of amazing grace.
2. *Think – Pair – Share:* What does **v. 16** mean?

3. *Think – Pair – Share:* Where is there a second remarkable example (or more!) of amazing grace in this section?

4. *Think – Pair – Share:* What unanswered question(s) come to mind?

Characteristics of Believers Who Display Confident Trust

Think – Pair – Share: Identify three or four characteristics that demonstrate how Elisha displayed his confident trust in the LORD. Then consider how we believers today can learn to "see the hosts" that our with us, to live in and work for the kingdom of Christ is similar confident trust.

Qualities from the Text	How We Can Emulate Today
	
	
	
	

II. Hearing... Yet Not Perceiving What God is Doing (2 Ki 6:24-7:20)

Again, Aram invades the land and in this call to repentance, God not only oppresses his people with an invading force, but by the siege and famine that affected the capital city of Samaria.

Background and Map


The Text of 2 Ki 6:24-7:20 (read aloud)

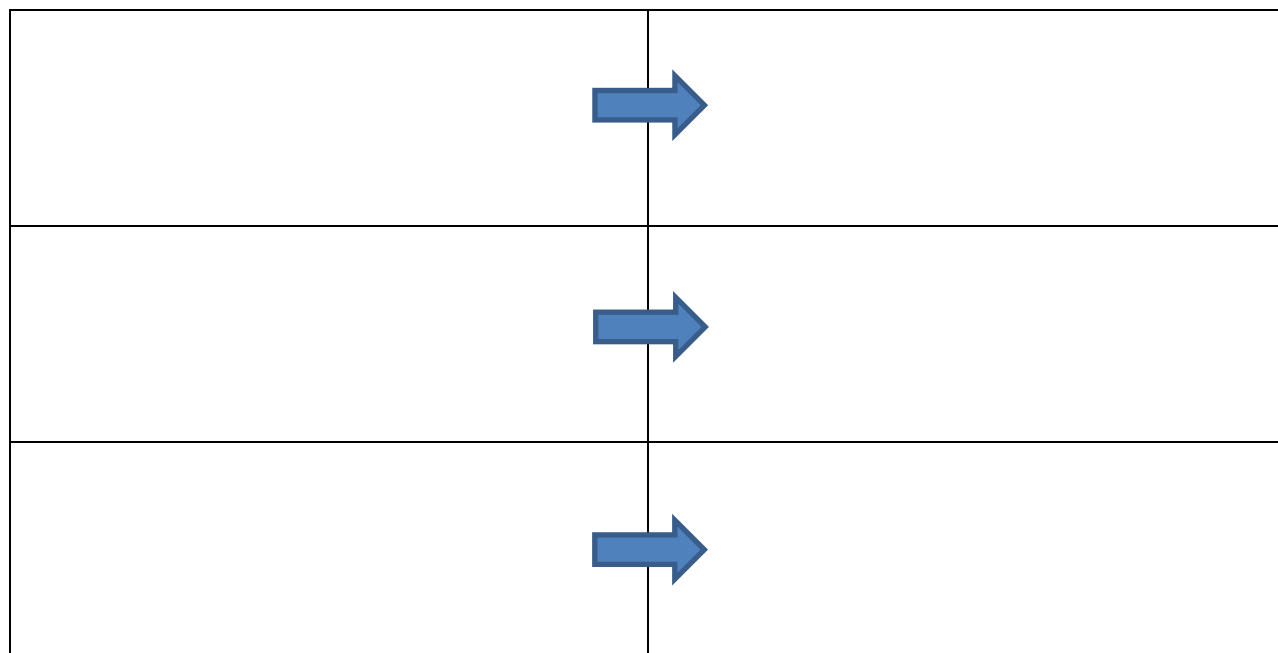
Using a "TPS" strategy, discuss the following (about 10 min.)

1. *Think – Pair – Share:* Explain how **7:1** only highlights God's amazing grace. Can you think of similar examples of God operating this way in Scripture?
2. *Think – Pair – Share:* Evaluate the actions of the lepers in **7:8-10**.
3. *Think – Pair – Share:* The basic idea of God's special covenant name ("The LORD," "Yahweh") is that it emphasizes he is "faithful." How do you see that concept emphasize in **7:14-20**?
4. *Think – Pair – Share:* What unanswered question(s) come to mind?

Lord, I Believe; Help Me Overcome My Unbelief!

Think – Pair – Share: Identify three or four instances of *doubt* or outright *unbelief* in the text, and consider how these same sins surface in our own lives. Then, discuss how God responded to such doubts in our text, as well as what *warnings* as well as *encouragements* we can take from God's actions.

Weaknesses of Faith / Traces of Unbelief We See in the Text and in Ourselves	How God Responds to Such Doubts (Then and Now)
	



Conclusion

As Paul said in his letter to the *Romans (8:31)*, "***If God is for us, who can be against us.***" The Lord proved time and again to the Children of Israel that he wanted them to be his people, and he their God. Though they often chose the other path, and as a result suffered the consequence of their sins, God's mercy and love sought them out and delivered them from the trouble of their own making. In no greater way has God's right hand done mighty things than in the salvation won for us by Christ. The battle is won, the field is ours forever.

The Apostle John recorded for us the vision God had given him of the victorious faithful and their song in **Revelation 15:2-4**. Read those words and join in giving glory to God for the mighty deeds his right hand has done.