



Small Group Discussion Guide: Week 1: Encouragement

Introduction:

We are in a new series called, *Words To Live By*. Your thoughts can hold you back, push you down, and feed you lies. But they can also lift you up! Is it time for you to change the way you're thinking? In this series we will learn how our thoughts affect our outlook. We will examine words and concepts from the Word of God that will shape our lives, and align ourselves with God's purposes.

Think about how words affect us. They can hurt or heal, they can build up or tear down, they are small but can be very powerful. As we explore this series, my prayer is that you will learn to see, and hear the words God has spoken over you. We will explore what the Bible teaches, discover "Words to Live By" from the

creator of the universe.

This week we will look at the word **Encouragement**. Where do you find encouragement? Is it what people say about you? What you say about yourself?

It is easier to find encouragement when things seem to be going well. But what about when things go bad? Or not how you thought? What about when you give it your all and still feel as though you fall short? What do we say when we talk to ourselves? Did you know that we can project on our life what we think, good or bad about ourselves?

Scripture for this week: 2 Kings 6:8-23

Read 2 Kings 6:8-23

(Leader Insight) The word encouragement means: the action of giving someone support, confidence, or hope. To inspire with courage, spirit, or hope. Elisha is a prophet or a spokesman for God. Elisha performed many miracles and was God's spokesman for Israel. His job was to bring encouragement and hope to Israel by displaying God's power and strength. Elisha was a man that was walking in the Spirit, and his faith was a testimony to Israel.

We will apply the **H.E.A.R** method of Bible study for this series.

- **Highlight:** Read and observe everything in the passage(s).
- **Explain:** Based on your reading, discover what the passage means in its context.
- **Apply:** Understand how the meaning of the passage affects your life.
- **Respond in Prayer:** Pray God's word back to him, asking to believe, share, and put the Bible into practice in your life and relationships.

Discussion Questions

Highlight

Question 1: What is happening in the text (vs.8-23)?

Question 2: What are some things you notice from this passage? What is the context in which this is taking place?

Question 3: How does Elisha know what the king is going to do? (vs-10-12)

Explain

Question 4: 2 Kings 6:13-16 lets us in on a war tactic that was used. Why was Elisha not afraid?

Question 5: [Ephesians 1:17-19 states](#),¹⁷ I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father,^[a] would give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him. ¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know what is the hope of his calling, what is the wealth of his glorious inheritance in the saints,
¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the mighty working of his strength.

How does this verse and 2 Kings 6:17 relate to each other? What is Elisha trying to help his servant see?

Question 6: What do you think Elisha servant was thinking in verse 2 Kings 6:17?

Question 7: In 2 Kings 6:21-23 we see an interesting response from God. What was the response God gave to Elisha?

Question 8: Do you find this to be an odd response? Explain why or why not.

Apply

Question 9: How does this passage give you encouragement? What is God teaching you through this story of Elisha?

Question 10: How does reading and applying what happened in 2 Kings 6:18-20 give you confidence in your walk with God?

Question 11: How does this inspire you to live with Authority in your everyday life? [2 Timothy 1:7 states](#),

“ God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of power, love, and sound judgment.”

- How does not being controlled by fear help you deal with discouragement?
- Where does fear come from?

Question 12: What does it look like to mutually encourage one another as believers? How can we do that as a small group?

Question 13: Why do you think the Aramean King did not return to Israel's land? Why did they not attack them again?

Question 14: How are we supposed to respond to our critics or to discouragement? What do we do when our circumstances don't seem to be in our favor?

Question 15: Where do you need to pray that God would open your eyes and let you see like he did with Elisha? What voice are you listening too?

(Leader Insight) Elisha faced challenges but had a different outlook than most. He had extreme confidence in God, and placed his faith in God, even when things seemed impossible for him. Elisha was a visible representation of the power of God on display, and was pointing to the one true prophet, Jesus Christ. Just like Elisha did miracles to help Israel see God, Jesus did miracles to point people to God's glory. Both Jesus and Elisha walked in the power and truth of the word. So here is a question, what is keeping you from walking in the same spirit?

Respond in Prayer

Next Steps

- 1. Share one small “next step” that you feel God is calling you to take in the next 7 days.**
- 2. Pray that God would open your eyes so that you can see.**
- 3. Pray that God will give you courage when you are faced with overwhelming circumstances.**
- 4. Pray Psalm 143 over your life this week.**

Pray & Dismiss