

## Encouragement From the Old Testament: Week 2

### Never Outnumbered, Never Alone (2 Kings 6:8-23)



**Intro:** The raid on Camp Cabanatuan, the misfit toys that confront Sid, and other examples of the aid of unseen reinforcements...

*Q) Is there an area in your life you feel overwhelmed, outnumbered, or destined to lose? This morning's Scripture story offers hope and guidance*

#### **I. Background + Contextual Things to Know About Elisha**

- a. Patterns and purpose of 1 + 2 Kings
- b. Tone and role of Elijah and Elisha
- c. Setups and summary of today's story (2 Kings 6:8-23)

#### **II. Spiritual Battle Lessons From Elisha**

- a. Fear and discouragement often come from not seeing everything that God sees (vs 8-15)
- b. The turning point towards victory, often comes from embracing God's perspective (vs 16-17)
- c. God often wins his battles with a display of undeserved favor and grace (vs 22-23) *This is where our OT story beautifully foreshadows Jesus*

**Conclusion and Summary Statement:** "Those who are with us, are more than those who are with them..." Be encouraged that as we open our eyes to God's perspective and purposes, He will send all that is needed to accomplish His plans

# Small Group Discussion + Individual Study Questions:

## 2 Kings 6:8-23

Read 2 Kings 6:8-23

1. Who is the aggressor in this story, who is causing the trouble? Who is being victimized?

2. What advantages do the Syrian raiders, have? What specific advantage does Israel have?

3. This is a well-crafted story where multiple characters are impacted by a change in sight or vision. Consider and answer:

- what is Elisha able to see that confounds the Syrian king?

- how does Elisha's servant's perspective or vision change?

- how does the invading army's perspective or vision change?

4. What is the difference in knowledge or perspective between Elisha and his servant? How does this make a difference in their outlook, in the face of opposition?

5. The original audience (Old Testament era Jewish people) would have lived in fear of foreign raiders. What would they have wanted to happen to the Syrian army? What do Elisha and God do, to end the raids?

Can you think of other times in the Bible, when God solves a problem or wins a victory by showing unexpected favor and grace?

6. Can you think of a time when your fear or anxiety came as a result of not seeing the whole picture?

Has God ever given you confidence or deliverance or victory through something that you had been overlooking?

7. Process the story, and write and share a summary statement of what God might be speaking to you through it: