

- Song 151 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

“Pick Up Your Son”: (10 min.)

The Shunammite woman showed exceptional hospitality to Elisha (2Ki 4:8-10)

(2 Kings 4:8-10) One day E-li'sha went to Shu'nem, where there was a prominent woman, and she urged him to eat a meal there. As often as he would pass by, he would stop there to eat. ⁹ So she said to her husband: “I know that it is a holy man of God who comes this way regularly. ¹⁰ Please, let us make a small room on the roof and put there for him a bed, a table, a chair, and a lampstand. Then, whenever he comes to us, he can stay there.”

Jehovah blessed her with a son (2Ki 4:16, 17; w17.12 4 ¶7)

(2 Kings 4:16, 17) Then he said: “At this time next year, you will be embracing a son.” But she said: “No, my master, man of the true God! Do not tell lies to your servant.” ¹⁷ However, the woman became pregnant and gave birth to a son at the same time the next year, just as E-li'sha had told her.

*** w17 December p. 4 par. 7 “I Know He Will Rise” ***

⁷ The second resurrection related in the Scriptures was performed by Elijah's successor, the prophet Elisha. A prominent Israelite woman in Shunem showed Elisha exceptional hospitality. Through the prophet, God rewarded this childless woman and her elderly husband with a son. Some years later,

the boy died. Imagine the mother's crushing grief. With her husband's permission, she traveled about 19 miles (30 km) to Elisha at Mount Carmel. The prophet sent his attendant Gehazi back to Shunem ahead of them. Gehazi was not able to bring the dead boy back to life. Then the grieving mother arrived with Elisha.—2 Ki. 4:8-31.

- (2 Kings 4:8-31) ⁸ One day E-li'sha went to Shu'nem, where there was a prominent woman, and she urged him to eat a meal there. As often as he would pass by, he would stop there to eat. ⁹ So she said to her husband: “I know that it is a holy man of God who comes this way regularly. ¹⁰ Please, let us make a small room on the roof and put there for him a bed, a table, a chair, and a lampstand. Then, whenever he comes to us, he can stay there.” ¹¹ One day he came there, and he went to the room on the roof to lie down. ¹² He then said to Ge-ha'zi his attendant: “Call this Shu'nam-mite woman.” So he called her, and she stood before him. ¹³ Then he said to Ge-ha'zi: “Please tell her, ‘Here you have gone to all this trouble for us. What can be done for you? Should I speak in your behalf to the king or to the chief of the army?’” But her reply was: “I am living among my own people.” ¹⁴ So he said: “Then what can be done for her?” Ge-ha'zi now said: “Well, she does not have a son, and her husband is old.” ¹⁵ Immediately he said: “Call her.” So he called her, and she stood at the doorway. ¹⁶ Then he said: “At this time next year, you will be embracing a son.” But she said: “No, my master, man of the true God! Do not tell lies to your servant.” ¹⁷ However, the woman became pregnant and gave birth to a son at the same time the next year, just as E-li'sha had told her. ¹⁸ The child grew up, and one day he went out to his father, who was with the reapers. ¹⁹ He kept saying to his father: “My head, O

my head!" Then his father said to the attendant: "Carry him to his mother." 20 So he carried him back to his mother, and he sat on her lap until noon, and then he died. 21 Then she went up and laid him on the bed of the man of the true God, and she shut the door behind her and left. 22 She now called her husband and said: "Send me, please, one of the attendants and one of the donkeys, and let me go quickly to the man of the true God and return." 23 But he said: "Why are you going to see him today? It is not a new moon or a sabbath." However, she said: "Everything is all right." 24 So she saddled the donkey and said to her attendant: "Go quickly. Do not slow down for me unless I tell you to." 25 So she went to the man of the true God at Mount Car'mel. As soon as the man of the true God saw her from afar, he said to Ge-ha'zi his attendant: "Look! The Shu'nam-mite woman is over there. 26 Please run to meet her and ask her, 'Are you well? Is your husband well? Is your child well?'" To this she said: "All is well." 27 When she came to the man of the true God at the mountain, she at once grabbed hold of his feet. At this Ge-ha'zi came near to push her away, but the man of the true God said: "Let her alone, for she is in bitter distress, and Jehovah has hidden it from me and has not told me." 28 She then said: "Did I ask my lord for a son? Did I not say, 'You must not give me a false hope?'" 29 He immediately said to Ge-ha'zi: "Wrap your garments around your waist and take my staff in your hand and go. If you encounter anyone, do not greet him; and if anyone should greet you, do not answer him. Go and place my staff on the boy's face." 30 At this the boy's mother said: "As surely as Jehovah is living and as you yourself are living, I will not leave you." So he got up and went with her. 31 Ge-ha'zi went before

them and put the staff on the boy's face, but there was no sound or response. He went back to meet E-li'sha and told him: "The boy did not wake up."

**Jehovah used Elisha to resurrect her son
 (2Ki 4:32-37; w17.12 4 ¶8)**

(2 Kings 4:32-37) When E-li'sha came into the house, the boy was lying dead on his bed. ³³ He went in and closed the door behind them both and began to pray to Jehovah. ³⁴ Then he got up on the bed and lay down on the child and put his own mouth on the boy's mouth, his own eyes on his eyes, and his own palms on his palms and kept bent over him, and the child's body started to grow warm. ³⁵ He walked back and forth in the house, and he got up on the bed and bent over him again. The boy sneezed seven times, after which he opened his eyes. ³⁶ E-li'sha now called Ge-ha'zi and said: "Call the Shu'nam-mite woman." So he called her and she came in to him. Then he said: "Pick up your son." ³⁷ And she came in and fell at his feet and bowed down to the ground before him, after which she picked up her son and went out.

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8 There by the body at the house in Shunem, Elisha prayed. Miraculously, the dead boy came to life and was reunited with his now elated mother! (Read 2 Kings 4:32-37.) She might well have recalled what formerly barren Hannah had prayed when she brought Samuel to serve at the tabernacle: "Jehovah . . . brings down to the Grave, and he raises up." (1 Sam. 2:6) Clearly, God in a very literal way raised up the boy in Shunem, proving His ability to resurrect.

- (2 Kings 4:32-37) When E-li'sha came into the house, the boy was lying dead on his bed. ³³ He went in and closed the door behind them both and began to

pray to Jehovah. 34 Then he got up on the bed and lay down on the child and put his own mouth on the boy's mouth, his own eyes on his eyes, and his own palms on his palms and kept bent over him, and the child's body started to grow warm. 35 He walked back and forth in the house, and he got up on the bed and bent over him again. The boy sneezed seven times, after which he opened his eyes. 36 E-li'sha now called Ge-ha'zi and said: "Call the Shu'nam-mite woman." So he called her and she came in to him. Then he said: "Pick up your son." 37 And she came in and fell at his feet and bowed down to the ground before him, after which she picked up her son and went out.

- (1 Samuel 2:6) Jehovah kills, and he preserves life; He brings down to the Grave, and he raises up.

Are you grieving the death of a child? Jehovah feels your pain. Very soon, he will bring your loved one back to life. (Job 14:14, 15) What a glorious day that will be!

- **(Job 14:14, 15)** If a man dies, can he live again? I will wait all the days of my compulsory service Until my relief comes. ¹⁵ You will call, and I will answer you. You will long for the work of your hands.

Spiritual Gems:

2Ki 4:38—Who likely were “the sons of the prophets”? (it-2 697 ¶2)

(2 Kings 4:38) 38 When E-li'sha returned to Gil'gal, there was famine in the land. The sons of the prophets were sitting before him, and he said to his attendant: "Put the large pot on and boil stew for the sons of the prophets."

*** it-2 p. 697 Prophet ***

“Sons of the Prophets.” As Gesenius’ Hebrew Grammar explains (Oxford, 1952, p. 418), the Hebrew ben (son of) or beneh' (sons of) may denote “membership of a guild or society (or of a tribe, or any definite class).” (Compare Ne 3:8, where “a member of the ointment mixers” is literally “a son of the ointment mixers.”) “The sons of the prophets” may thus describe a school of instruction for those called to this vocation or simply a cooperative association of prophets. Such prophetic groups are mentioned as being at Bethel, Jericho, and Gilgal. (2Ki 2:3, 5; 4:38; compare 1Sa 10:5, 10.) Samuel presided over a group at Ramah (1Sa 19:19, 20), and Elisha seems to have held a similar position in his day. (2Ki 4:38; 6:1-3; compare 1Ki 18:13.) The record mentions their building their own dwelling place and the use of a borrowed tool, which may indicate that they lived simply. Though often sharing quarters and food in common, they might receive individual assignments to go out on prophetic missions.—1Ki 20:35-42; 2Ki 4:1, 2, 39; 6:1-7; 9:1, 2.

- (Nehemiah 3:8) Next to them Uz'zi-el the son of Har-hai'ah, one of the goldsmiths, did repair work, and next to him Han-a-ni'ah, one of the ointment mixers, did repair work; and they paved Jerusalem as far as the Broad Wall.
- (2 Kings 2:3) Then the sons of the prophets in Beth'el came out to E-li'sha and said to him: “Do you know that today Jehovah is taking your master

away from headship over you?" At this he said: "I already know it. Be silent."

- (2 Kings 2:5) Then the sons of the prophets who were in Jer'i-cho approached E-li'sha and said to him: "Do you know that today Jehovah is taking your master away from headship over you?" At this he said: "I already know it. Be silent."
- (2 Kings 4:38) When E-li'sha returned to Gil'gal, there was famine in the land. The sons of the prophets were sitting before him, and he said to his attendant: "Put the large pot on and boil stew for the sons of the prophets."
- (1 Samuel 10:5) After that you will come to the hill of the true God, where there is a garrison of the Phi-lis'tines. When you come to the city, you will meet a group of prophets coming down from the high place, and a stringed instrument and tambourine and flute and harp will be played ahead of them while they are prophesying.
- (1 Samuel 10:10) So they went from there to the hill, and a group of prophets met him. At once the spirit of God empowered him, and he began to prophesy among them.
- (1 Samuel 19:19, 20) In time it was reported to Saul: "Look! David is in Nai'oth in Ra'mah." 20 At once Saul sent messengers to seize David. When they saw the elderly ones of the prophets prophesying and Samuel standing and presiding over them, the spirit of God came to be upon Saul's messengers, and they began behaving as prophets as well.
- (2 Kings 4:38) When E-li'sha returned to Gil'gal, there was famine in the land. The sons of the prophets were sitting before him, and he said to his attendant:

"Put the large pot on and boil stew for the sons of the prophets."

- (2 Kings 6:1-3) The sons of the prophets said to E-li'sha: "Look! The place where we are staying with you is too cramped for us. 2 Please let us go to the Jordan. Let each of us take a log from there and make a place there where we can dwell." He said: "Go." 3 One of them said: "Will you please come along with your servants?" At that he said: "I will come."
- (1 Kings 18:13) Has my lord not been told what I did when Jez'e-bel was killing the prophets of Jehovah, how I hid 100 of the prophets of Jehovah by groups of 50 in a cave and kept supplying them bread and water?
- (1 Kings 20:35-42) By the word of Jehovah, one of the sons of the prophets said to his companion: "Strike me, please." But the man refused to strike him. 36 So he said to him: "Because you did not listen to the voice of Jehovah, as soon as you leave me, a lion will kill you." After he left him, a lion came upon him and killed him. 37 He found another man and said: "Strike me, please." So the man struck him and wounded him. 38 Then the prophet went and waited for the king by the road, disguising himself with a bandage over his eyes. 39 As the king was passing by, he cried out to the king: "Your servant went into the thick of the battle, and there was a man coming out who brought a man to me and said, 'Guard this man. If he is found missing, your life will have to take the place of his life, or else you will pay a talent of silver.' 40 And while your servant was busy here and there, suddenly the man was gone." The king of Israel said to him: "So your own judgment will be; you have decided it yourself." 41 Then he quickly removed the bandage from his eyes,

and the king of Israel recognized that he was one of the prophets. 42 He said to him: "This is what Jehovah says, 'Because you have let the man who I said should be destroyed escape from your hand, your life must take the place of his life, and your people the place of his people.'"

- (2 Kings 4:1, 2) Now one of the wives of the sons of the prophets cried out to E-li'sha, saying: "Your servant my husband is dead, and you well know that your servant had always feared Jehovah. Now a creditor has come to take both of my children as his slaves." 2 At this E-li'sha said to her: "What can I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house?" She replied: "Your servant has nothing at all in the house but a jar of oil."
- (2 Kings 4:39) So one of them went out to the field to pick mallows, and he found a wild vine and picked wild gourds from it, filling his garment. He then returned and sliced them into the stewpot, not knowing what they were.
- (2 Kings 6:1-7) The sons of the prophets said to E-li'sha: "Look! The place where we are staying with you is too cramped for us. 2 Please let us go to the Jordan. Let each of us take a log from there and make a place there where we can dwell." He said: "Go." 3 One of them said: "Will you please come along with your servants?" At that he said: "I will come." 4 So he went with them, and they came to the Jordan and began to cut down the trees. 5 As one of them was cutting down a tree, the axhead fell into the water, and he cried out: "Alas, my master, it was borrowed!" 6 The man of the true God said: "Where did it fall?" So he showed him the place. He then cut off a piece of wood and threw it there and made the axhead float. 7 He

said: "Lift it out." So he reached out his hand and took it.

- (2 Kings 9:1, 2) E-li'sha the prophet then called one of the sons of the prophets and said to him: "Wrap your garments around your waist, and quickly take this flask of oil with you and go to Ra'moth-gil'e-ad. 2 When you arrive there, look for Je'hu the son of Je'hosh'a·phat the son of Nim'shi; go in and have him get up from among his brothers and take him into the innermost room.

What spiritual gems from this week's Bible reading would you like to share regarding Jehovah, the field ministry, or something else?

Bible Reading:) (4 min.)
2Ki 3:1-12 (th study 5)

(2 Kings 3:1-12) 3 Je-ho'ram the son of A'hab became king over Israel in Sa-mar'i-a in the 18th year of King Je'hosh'a·phat of Judah, and he reigned for 12 years. 2 He kept doing what was bad in Jehovah's eyes, but not to the extent of his father or his mother, for he removed the sacred pillar of Ba'al that his father had made. 3 However, he clung to the sins that Jer-o-bo'am the son of Ne'bat had caused Israel to commit. He did not depart from them. 4 Now Me'sha the king of Mo'ab was a sheep raiser, and he used to pay 100,000 lambs and 100,000 unshorn rams as tribute to the king of Israel. 5 As soon as A'hab died, the king of Mo'ab revolted against the king of Israel. 6 So King Je-ho'ram went out on that day from Sa-mar'i-a and mustered all

Israel. 7 He also sent a message to King Je-hosh'a-phat of Judah, saying: "The king of Mo'ab has revolted against me. Will you go with me to war against Mo'ab?" To this he said: "I will go. I am the same as you. My people are the same as your people. My horses are the same as your horses." 8 Then he asked: "By which way should we go up?" He replied: "By the way of the wilderness of E'dom." 9 The king of Israel then set out with the king of Judah and the king of E'dom. After they journeyed roundabout for seven days, there was no water for the camp and for the domestic animals that were following behind them. 10 The king of Israel said: "How terrible! Jehovah has called these three kings, only to give them into the hand of Mo'ab!" 11 At that Je-hosh'a-phat said: "Is there no prophet of Jehovah here through whom we may inquire of Jehovah?" So one of the servants of the king of Israel answered: "There is E-li'sha the son of Sha'phat, who used to pour out water on the hands of E-li'jah." 12 Then Je-hosh'a-phat said: "The word of Jehovah is with him." So the king of Israel and Je-hosh'a-phat and the king of E'dom went down to him.

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

Initial Call: (3 min.) Use the sample conversation topic. Overcome a common objection. (*th study 17*)

Initial Call

Question: Where can we find practical advice for daily living?

Scripture: 2Ti 3:16, 17

Link: Why can you trust the Bible?

- (2 Timothy 3:16, 17) 16 All Scripture is inspired of God and beneficial for teaching, for reproving, for setting things straight, for disciplining in righteousness, 17 so that the man of

God may be fully competent, completely equipped for every good work.

Return Visit: (4 min.) Begin with the sample conversation topic. Introduce (but do not play) the video What Happens at a Bible Study? (th study 20)

Return Visit

Question: Why can you trust the Bible?

Scripture: Job 26:7

Link: What are some questions that the Bible answers?

- (Job 26:7) 7 He stretches out the northern sky over empty space, Suspending the earth upon nothing;

Talk: (5 min.) w13 8/15 28-29—Theme: How Might You Imitate Elisha's Humility in Sacred Service? (th study 15)

*** w13 8/15 pp. 28-29 Elisha Saw Fiery Chariots—Do You? ***

ELISHA BEGINS SERVING ELIJAH

On one occasion, when Elisha was plowing a field, the prophet Elijah approached him and threw his own official garment upon him. Elisha knew what that meant. He held a feast, said

good-bye to his father and mother, and left home to minister to Elijah. (1 Ki. 19:16, 19-21) Because Elisha readily made himself available to serve God as fully as possible, he became an instrument in Jehovah's hand and eventually served as prophet in place of Elijah.

Elisha served Elijah for perhaps six years. During that time, Elisha was the one 'who poured out water upon Elijah's hands.' (2 Ki. 3:11) In those days, people customarily ate with their hands, without forks, knives, or other eating utensils. After a meal, a servant poured water on his master's hands to cleanse them. So at least some of Elisha's tasks were menial. Nevertheless, he considered it a privilege to be Elijah's attendant.

- Today, many Christians likewise take up various forms of full-time service. In doing so, they are motivated by faith and a desire to use their energies as fully as possible in serving Jehovah. Some of the assignments require that they leave home and do work—at Bethel, on construction projects, and so forth—that many might consider menial. No Christian should consider such service insignificant or demeaning, for Jehovah values it highly.—Heb. 6:10.
- (1 Kings 19:16) And you should anoint Je'hu the grandson of Nim'shi as king over Israel, and you should anoint E·li'sha the son of Sha'phat from A'bel-me·ho'lah as prophet to take your place.
- (1 Kings 19:19-21) So he went from there and found E·li'sha the son of Sha'phat while he was plowing with 12 pairs of bulls ahead of him, and he was with the 12th pair. So E·li'jah went over to him and threw his official garment on him. 20 At that he left the bulls and ran after E·li'jah and said: "Please, let me kiss my father and my mother. Then I will follow you." He replied to him: "Go, return, for what have I done to stop you?" 21 So he went back and took a

pair of bulls and sacrificed them, and he used the plowing gear to boil the meat of the bulls and gave it to the people, and they ate. After that he rose up and followed E·li'jah and began to minister to him.

- (2 Kings 3:11) At that Je·hosh'a·phat said: "Is there no prophet of Jehovah here through whom we may inquire of Jehovah?" So one of the servants of the king of Israel answered: "There is E·li'sha the son of Sha'phat, who used to pour out water on the hands of E·li'jah."
- (Hebrews 6:10) For God is not unrighteous so as to forget your work and the love you showed for his name by ministering and continuing to minister to the holy ones.

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 129

"Until the Resurrection Becomes Reality": (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video When a Loved One Dies.

When a loved one dies, we find comfort in the resurrection hope. Even so, sin and death are like a suffocating shroud that weighs heavily on all of us. (Isa 25:7, 8) This is one reason why "all creation keeps on groaning together and being in pain together." (Ro 8:22) How can we cope with the loss of loved ones until the resurrection becomes reality? God's Word contains principles that can help us.

WATCH THE VIDEO WHEN A LOVED ONE DIES, AND THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- What pain have Danielle and Masahiro and Yoshimi experienced?

- How did five practical suggestions help them?

- Who is the ultimate Source of comfort?—2Co 1:3, 4

- (Isaiah 25:7, 8) In this mountain he will do away with the shroud that is enveloping all the peoples And the covering that is woven over all the nations. 8 He will swallow up death forever, And the Sovereign Lord Jehovah will wipe away the tears from all faces. The reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, For Jehovah himself has spoken it.
- (Romans 8:22) For we know that all creation keeps on groaning together and being in pain together until now.
- (2 Corinthians 1:3, 4) Praised be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of tender mercies and the God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our trials so that we may be able to comfort others in any sort of trial with the comfort that we receive from God.

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)

Iff lesson 25

(Job 14:1) “Man, born of woman, Is short-lived and filled with trouble.

(Genesis 1:28) Further, God blessed them, and God said to them: “Be fruitful and become many, fill the earth and subdue it, and have in subjection the fish of the sea and the flying creatures of the heavens and every living creature that is moving on the earth.”

(Isaiah 46:10, 11) From the beginning I foretell the outcome, And from long ago the things that have not yet been done. I say, ‘My decision will stand, And I will do whatever I please.’ 11 I am calling a bird of prey from the sunrise, From a distant land the man to carry out my decision. I have spoken, and I will bring it about. I have purposed it, and I will also carry it out.

(Revelation 21:3, 4) With that I heard a loud voice from the throne say: “Look! The tent of God is with mankind, and he will reside with them, and they will be his people. And God himself will be with them. 4 And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away.”

(Matthew 5:3-6) “Happy are those conscious of their spiritual need, since the Kingdom of the heavens belongs to them. 4 “Happy are those who mourn, since they will be comforted. 5 “Happy are the mild-tempered, since they will inherit the earth. 6 “Happy are those hungering and thirsting for righteousness, since they will be filled.

(Deuteronomy 10:12) “Now, O Israel, what is Jehovah your God asking of you? Only this: to fear Jehovah your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve Jehovah your God with all your heart and all your soul,

(Psalm 25:14) Close friendship with Jehovah belongs to those who fear him, And he makes his covenant known to them.

(Ecclesiastes 3:11) He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has even put eternity in their heart; yet mankind will never find out the work that the true God has made from start to finish.

(Psalm 37:11) But the meek will possess the earth, And they will find exquisite delight in the abundance of peace.

(Psalm 37:29) The righteous will possess the earth, And they will live forever on it.

(Isaiah 55:11) So my word that goes out of my mouth will be. It will not return to me without results, But it will certainly accomplish whatever is my delight, And it will have sure success in what I send it to do.

(Ecclesiastes 12:13) The conclusion of the matter, everything having been heard, is: Fear the true God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole obligation of man.

- Concluding Comments (3 min.)

- Song 139 and Prayer