



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

EAST ABBOTSFORD CAMPUS

MARCH 1, 2020

INFO AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Baptism Class May 6** || For those wanting to know more about baptism and those wanting to be baptized. Let us know you are coming by filling out the online Questionnaire at northview.org/baptism. || 7-9pm in West Court || ASL interpretation available
- **Special General Meeting:** We have a Special General Meeting coming up on March 10th at 7:00 pm in the Worship Center. Meeting packages will be at the Connect Desk and Usher Cart for people to pick up.
- Northview is running many different courses this winter/spring. Those include: **Financial Basics 104: Understanding Taxes:** Tuesday, March 3rd; 7pm
More information and to register see: northview.org/courses
- **Men's Retreat:** April 3-5th. Cost: \$200. Location: Rockridge Canyon.
Register online: northview.org/men.
- Sign up for Northview's Newsletter at northview.org to never miss another event.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for the ACS renovation/ construction project (for health, safety, speed, etc.)
- Pray for the DR Campus Worship Centre capital campaign (that money would be raised quickly!)
- Pray for opportunities for us to engage our neighbours, coworkers, and other people we are connected with in gospel conversations
- Pray for people who live in east Abbotsford to have a hunger for God and good news, and that they would hear it through our campus and people

LEADER NOTES

Suggested Timing for a 2 hour meeting:

Connection: 30 Minutes (visiting / snacks / announcements / ice breakers)

Content: 30 Minutes (Observation and Interpretation questions):

Commission: 10-15 minutes (Application questions)

Care: 15-30 minutes (Sharing and Prayer)

Connection: 15-30 minutes (visiting / snacks)

LEADING SERMON-BASED DISCUSSIONS:

- Read the scripture passage(s) together as a group.
- Direct people back to the text if they are going on rabbit trails or talking about opinions and speculation, by asking, "Where do you see that in the text? What answer does the text provide for that question?"
- As you transition to prayer time, pray through the issues and ideas that the text brought up.

RESOURCES FOR 1 & 2 KINGS

Commentaries:

Paul House, *1 & 2 Kings -New American Commentary*

Iain Provan, *1 & 2 Kings - Understanding the Bible*

Donald Wiseman, *1 & 2 Kings: An Introduction and Commentary*
Tyndale Old Testament Commentary

August H. Konkel, *1 & 2 Kings*
(The NIV Application Commentary)

Gavin Ortlund, *1 & 2 Kings: A 12-week Study*
(Knowing the Bible)

The Gospel Coalition Course:
God's Big Picture. Unit 5: The Partial Kingdom: Place and King
www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/gods-big-picture-tracing-storyline-bible

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Observation

This section is aimed at helping people observe the details of the text: what is written, what words or ideas are repeated and emphasized, the text's structure and how this text fits into the wider context of the book of Romans.

1. Read 2 Kings 4:1-7.
2. Who was the woman married to? And what is the woman's concern?
*She was the wife of a man from the company of prophets (v1).
She is concerned that she will need to give her sons as slaves to her creditors in order to work off debt (v1).*
3. What is Elisha's response to her? What are his instructions?
He asks how he can help her, and asks what she has on hand (v2). He instructs her to collect jars from her neighbours (v3). Go inside, shut the door, and pour the oil into the jars (v3).
4. When does the oil run out?
When her son says there are no more jars - they have filled all the jars (v5).
5. What is she told to do with the oil?
Sell it and pay the debts and live off the proceeds.

Interpretation

This section is aimed at linking the current text to other texts or to the bigger biblical narrative. If you are running out of time, feel free to skip this section.

1. Read Exodus 22:21-24 and Leviticus 25:39-43.
What laws has God instituted for the Israelites in these passages? How are these laws not being followed in 1 Kings 4:1-7?
*Ex. - they are commanded not to wrong foreigners or widows. God will hear their cry if they are wronged, and He will take action.
Lev. - If someone has debt and needs to work it off, they can not be taken as slaves (v39). They also need to be released at the year of jubilee (v40).
The people are not taking care of the widow as seen by the detail she has debt. The "Creditors" are willing to break the law and take her sons as slaves.*

2. Read Psalm 68:1-6 and James 1:26-27.
What people in these passages does God seem to have a special concern for?
The fatherless and widow.
3. Read Deuteronomy 10:12-18.
What does v18 tell us about God's care for the fatherless, widow and foreigner?
He defends their cause and provides for their needs.
4. Read Ezekiel 22:6-8.
The book of Ezekiel is written during the Jewish captivity in Babylon. What is one of the reasons they are experiencing judgement?
They have mistreated the vulnerable (ie. fatherless and widow and foreigner).
5. With this in mind, what does 1 Kings 4:1-7 tell us about the state of Israel in this story?
Israel is neglecting to follow God's commands. People are not taking care of the vulnerable, but rather taking advantage of them.

Application

This section is aimed at helping people apply what we have read in the text to our lives. It is intended to foster more open-ended discussion as people connect the text to their everyday life, and reflect on how it changes the way they think and act.

1. How does God's care for the vulnerable challenge you today?
Various Answers
2. When you are in a desperate situation, what is the first place you usually look to for help?
It is commendable here that the widow seeks help from the LORD through his prophet. We often try to figure things out on our own or talk with friends and people who may commiserate with us, rather than praying about the situation and seeking the LORD's guidance.
3. The widow in this story accessed God's solution for her situation by consulting God's prophet. We now have God's will and his word in a written, accessible format. How often do you consult God's word to find a way forward in the midst of situations you face?
Various Answers