



**Reaching,
Restoring,
Raising Up**

1140 Morrison Dr
Fort Worth, TX 76120-3426

Phone: 817-451-5513
Email: allan@celebrationnet.com

We're on the Web!

Www. Celebrationnet.com

L.I.F.E. Group Questions—Proverbs 24:3

Our L.I.F.E. Groups that meet in homes use the following questions from the sermon for discussion and application. To find a group pick up a L.I.F.E. Group brochure in the Welcome Center.

1. Tell your group about some things you learned from your family growing up. Which of these are you continuing to do, and which have you chosen not to do?
2. Talk about some ways that a family could prepare the next generation in the 3 areas of relationships, character and values.
3. Discuss some times of trouble—change, failure or rejection—that you have experienced in your family. How would the actions of “hearing, hugging, hoping, and helping” have benefited you?
4. What kinds of fun do you have together as a family (besides TV)? Brainstorm some things you could do together that everyone would at least moderately enjoy. Why is this important?
5. How do you teach about God and faith in your home? What are some ways to get everyone involved in this, rather than just giving a religious “lecture”?
6. Talk about anything else that impressed you from the message if you have time.

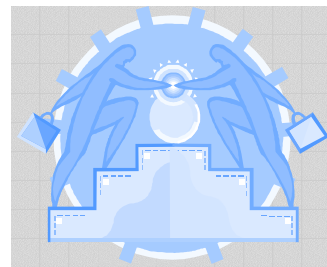
**You Can Join an ABF Anytime — Find
Yours Below and Join Us!**

Adult Bible Fellowships

Locations, Times, Descriptions

9:00

10:45



**ADULT BIBLE FELLOWSHIPS
- CONNECTING AROUND THE WORD -**

Rm104	30s-50s—Waller-Crary	Rm 104	Open—Bower-Chappell
Rm 201	30s-40s—Sims-Fendley	Rm 112	Women—Byrum
Rm 203	Young Singles —Franklin/Reynolds	Rm 201	20s—Alexy/Jones
Rm 205	40s&Up—Christensen-Hasler	Rm 202	30s—Tripp-Tripp
Rm 206	Master Your Money—Lux	Rm 203	Singles—Bentzel
Rm 207	40s-50s—McBrayer-Wicks	Rm 204	30s—Heritier-Sharp
Rm 208	Women—Knox-Anderson	Rm 205	Engaged/Young Married —Houston/Baker
		Rm 208	Open—Regis-Anderson
		Gym-3rd fl	College Ayres-Getchell

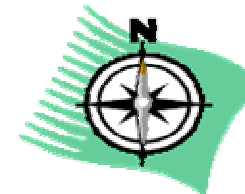
July 11, 2004

Living Like a King
Fulfilling Our Call to Royalty from 1 & 2 Kings

Celebration Fellowship

Stayin' Alive

A preview of II Kings 4-5



Volume 2, Issue 49

July 11, 2004

Inside this issue:

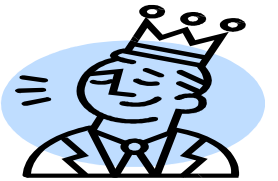
Introduction to Next Week's Study	1
Summary of Last Week's Study Questions	1-2
Study Guide	2-3
Life Group Questions	4

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God's pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God's family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

Who can forget the image of John Travolta strutting to the song, “Stayin’ Alive” in Saturday Night Fever? For him, “stayin’ alive” amounted to disco dancing all night long. It was his way of survival. In this week’s study we see several people literally “stayin’ alive”, due to God’s mighty power, and one person who probably wished he hadn’t because of misplaced values. Elisha, the prophet, Elijah’s successor, was at the center of it all. He first instructed a widow, faced with the loss of her children because of bad debts, to take

the one jar of oil that she had, and to borrow as many empty jars as she could, so that God could fill them all up with her supply of oil. She then sold the oil and paid off her debts, enabling her and her children to “stay alive”. Then there was a childless couple in Shunem, with whom Elisha frequently stayed who God miraculously provided with a son. However, when the boy was grown, he died. God brought him back to life through Elisha. He also healed poisonous stew and fed 100 men with some corn and 20 loaves of barley, enabling



We can live like kings when we follow the King, Jesus.

them to “stay alive”. Finally, Naaman, healed of his leprosy through Elisha, was able to have a quality of life—unlike Gehazi, Elisha’s servant, who became a leper due to greed. Naaman and Gehazi show us that life is about more than just “stayin’ alive” - God wants us to thrive.

God (Still) At Work

We're all familiar with the street signs labeled, “Men At Work”. These alert us to be careful, and to allow the road work to continue unimpeded. Similarly, in 2 Kings 1-3 this week, we see the “God (still) at work” sign in Israel, being posted through His prophets. In spite of Israel’s unfaithfulness, God continued to raise up prophets to lead Israel back to Him. This is seen with Ahaziah, Ahab’s son, who was near death due to an injury sustained when he fell through a lattice. Ahaziah wanted to know if his death was near, so he sent messengers to Philistia to consult with the false god, Baal-zebul. This angered God, who sent Elijah to the messengers to find out if Ahaziah had forgotten that there was still a living God in Israel. God always wants us to come to Him with our problems, large or small, so He can help us with them. This allows Him to reveal His love and power, so it is a win-win scenario. When the messengers re-

turned so soon, Ahaziah wanted to know why. When he heard that a man, wanting to know why the king was asking a false god about his condition, had sent them back, he asked for the man’s description. Hearing that he had hairy garments and a leather belt, he immediately knew it was Elijah, showing that he expected to be confronted by him. He knew he was doing wrong, but, as we often do, he was trying to avoid God at all costs. We want to be in control of our future, rather than letting God, so we run from him and try to do it on our own. But God wouldn’t allow that; when Ahaziah tried to force Elijah to come to him by sending soldiers in squads of fifty to order him to return with them, fire from heaven consumed them twice. This proved that Elijah was a man of God. On the third trip the captain of the squad pled for his and his soldiers’ lives, finally acknowledging that God was in charge. However, the sparing of

(2 Kings 1-3)

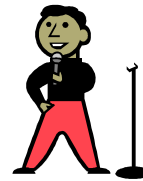
the lives of these men shows God’s mercy as well. Finally, the angel of the Lord told Elijah to go with them, and God revealed to Ahaziah that he was going to die, and that he had sinned by turning to a false god. Ahaziah’s death showed who the true God was. After this event the end of Elijah’s life was near. It was public knowledge that Elijah would be taken up that day into heaven. Elijah, in typical fashion, wanted to do this alone. But, Elisha, his servant and successor, thinking that possibly he would receive a blessing from Elijah before he departed, refused to leave him 3 times. He then asked Elijah to give a double portion of his spirit to him; even though Elijah said this was a hard thing, he did tell Elisha that if he saw him leave, this would happen. Since the armies of the Lord were in view when he was caught up in to heaven, maybe he wanted Elisha to understand that the real power came from the Lord. So, in spite of Elijah’s resistance, Elisha, wanting to carry on

(Continued on page 2)

II Kings 1-3 (continued from pg 1)

well in his absence, stayed with Elijah to the end. Elisha's first act of parting the Jordan River with Elijah's mantle, as Elijah had done, showed he had "Elijah's" spirit. Then, the men of Jericho presented him with a problem—the town had bad water. So, Elisha told them to bring him a new jar and some salt, then went out and threw this salt into the spring that fed Jericho. He declared the word of the Lord that He had purified the waters so that neither death nor unfruitfulness would come from there any more. The waters had thus remained pure until the writing of 2 Kings, over 300 years later. Since the "word of the Lord" which Elisha spoke happened exactly as he said, it confirmed that he was, indeed, a true prophet. He then performed another "Elijah-like" action when some youth (teenagers probably) from Bethel (the southern center of idolatry in Israel) began to mock him. They told him to "go up" (as Elijah had done), wanting to either get rid of him, or make him prove that he was a prophet. Because he was the Lord's representative, this was a challenge to the Lord's authority; so, he called upon the Lord to curse them. The Lord affirmed Elisha's word, and destroyed these 42 youth by leading two she-bears from the woods to kill them.

Like Elisha, we, too, must take a stand for the Lord, and allow Him to defend His name. After this Jehoram, the brother of Ahaziah, became king and did evil, though not as bad as his parents, Ahab and Jezebel. When Ahab died, Mesha, king of Moab, rebelled by refusing to give his annual tribute to Israel. So, Jehoram formed an alliance with Judah and Edom to go to war with Moab. As they traversed Edom's wilderness they suddenly had no water; Jehoram assumed that the Lord was going to allow them to die at the hands of Moab, but Jehoshaphat, Judah's king, wanted to ask the prophet, Elisha. This shows that value of true Christians in the world; when unbelievers want to give up, we can point them to God. Elisha first



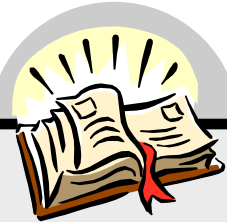
"We, too, must take a stand for the Lord, and allow Him to defend His name."

asked Jehoram why they didn't turn to the gods of his parents, but he said that the Lord had led them into this situation (admitting his parents had turned to false prophets). Jehoshaphat was the only reason Elisha gave them God's answer (again showing how Christians preserve the world), saying that not only would water appear in the wilderness, but that they would also defeat Moab and destroy their land. God delivered Moab into Israel's hands by an optical illusion. The Moabite soldiers thought they saw blood in the trenches, when it was actually a reflection from the water God had provided. They presumed that the 3 armies had killed each other so they rushed for the spoil. When they did they were trapped by the 3 armies, totally defeated, and their land was destroyed. In an effort to break Edom's siege, the Moabite king sacrificed his son to their false god; this repulsed God, and His anger with Israel for joining with Edom caused Him to end the war. God continuing work in Israel was obvious as He confronted Ahaziah and passed the prophetic mantle to Elisha. Elisha's miracles, and the defeat of Moab also showed God was still at work. This shows that, in spite of our unfaithfulness, God always desires to restore us.

Study Questions for 2 Kings 4-5

Elisha continues a remarkable prophetic ministry, revealing God's desire to bring life and wholeness to this world.

1. Read 2 Kings 4:1-7. What was the widow's dilemma (v1) and what was Elisha's solution (v2-4)? What was required of the woman (v3, 6), and what was the result (v7)? What does this teach us about faith?
2. In 2 Kings 4:8-17 what did the Shunemite woman do for Elisha (v8, 9-10), and what did she expect in return (v13)? What did Elisha do for her anyway (v15-17)? What principle does this story illustrate?
3. From 2 Kings 4:18-28 what happened to the son (v19-20)? How did the woman respond (v22, 26, 28), and what does each response indicate about her thoughts? What is typical about these 3 responses?



"In spite of our unfaithfulness, God always desires to restore us."

4. Looking at 2 Kings 4:29-37 what was Elisha's 1st step towards reviving the boy (v29) and the result (v31)? What was his 2nd step (v33-35) and the result (v35)? What did both of these steps teach?

5. Using 2 Kings 4:38-41 what happened when Elisha returned to Gilgal (v38-40)? How was this problem solved (v41), and since the false god, Baal was considered "lord of the earth", what did this show?

6. From 2 Kings 4:42-44 what problem was presented (v42-43) and what was Elisha's attendant's response (v43)? What was the solution (v43-44)? How can we apply this today?

7. Read 2 Kings 5:1-4. Describe Naaman, both good and bad (v1, 3). Who could solve his problem (v3), and how did Naaman find out about it (v4)? What life lesson is found here?

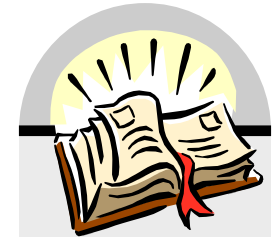
8. In 2 Kings 5:5-8 what was the response of Israel's king (v7), and Elisha's response (v8)? Why do you think each acted as they did?

9. From 2 Kings 5:9-14 what did Elisha tell Naaman to do (10) and what was Naaman's reaction (v11-12)? What was his root problem, the proof that he overcame it (v13-14), and the result (v14)? Apply this to people today.

10. Using 2 Kings 5:15-19 what was the "big" result in Naaman's life (v15), and how did he want to show his gratitude (v15)? How did Elisha respond (v16)? Do you think Naaman's faith was real (v17-18)?

11. Looking at 2 Kings 5:20-27 what did Gehazi do wrong (v22) and how did he "justify" it (v20)? How did he make it worse (v25) and what was the consequence (v26-27)? How is all this typical of human nature?

12. Review 2 Kings 4-5. How did God bring life in different situations (4:18-44)? In what situations did God improve the quality of life (4:1-17; 5:1-14), and in what situation did it decline (5:15-27)? What caused each?



Memory Verse

**"Behold now,
I know that
there is no God
in all the earth,
but in Israel."
2 Kings 5:15**