



**Reaching,
Restoring,
Raising Up**

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L.I.F.E. Group Questions—I Kings 18

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. Share some memories about the best fight you ever saw—on TV or on the playground. When do you think a fight is justified, and how does this relate to our convictions?
2. Talk about where our convictions come from. Why is solidarity necessary for conviction to make a difference in any group—family, nation, church, etc?
3. Discuss what it means that “conviction calls for separation”. Why do you think we add “false gods” to our worship of the true God, and why does this not make sense?
4. Talk about an episode in your life where compromising a principle of God “cost” you. What should you have done?
5. Share some sacrifices that your convictions have called for. Do you think they have been worth it? Is there a conviction that you need to stand by today?
6. Talk about anything else that impressed you from the message if you have time.

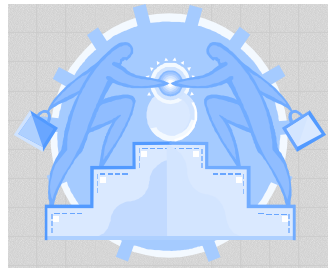
**You Can Join an ABF Anytime — Find
Yours Below and Join Us!**

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 112		Rm 112	Women—Byrum
Rm 201	30s-40s—Sims	Rm 201	20s—Alexy/Jones
Rm 202		Rm 202	30s—Tripp-Tripp
Rm 203	Young Singles —Franklin/Reynolds	Rm 203	Singles—Bentzel
Rm 204		Rm 204	30s—Heritier-Sharp
Rm 205	40s&Up—Christensen-Hasler	Rm 205	Engaged/Young Married —Houston/Baker
Rm 206		Rm 206	
Rm 207	40s-50s—McBrayer-Wicks	Rm 207	
Rm 208	Women—Knox-Anderson	Rm 208	Open—Regis-Anderson
		Gym	College—Ayres-Getchell

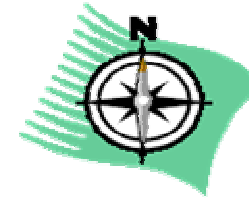
July 25, 2004

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

Celebration Fellowship

The Fast and the Furious

A preview of II Kings 9-11



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July 25, 2004

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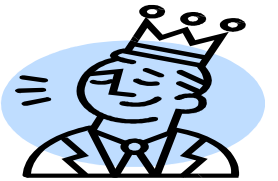
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The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- 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

Vin Diesel, in “The Fast and the Furious” wasn’t the 1st guy known for driving fast; in 2 Kings 9-11 Jehu, divinely chosen to topple Israel’s and Judah’s evil dynasties, had a similar reputation. His “ride” was a chariot, and he drove it “fast and furiously”. After being anointed as the next king of Israel, he drove to Jezreel to “do the deed”. When Jehu arrived, he not only killed Israel’s king with an arrow between the shoulders, but, catching up to Ahaziah, Judah’s king, he had him executed, too. Jehu wasn’t

through; he then went after Jezebel, who was thrown to the dogs. He followed this up with a successful “search and destroy” mission for Ahab’s 70 sons, and then exterminated 42 relatives of Ahaziah just in passing. Next he went after the Baal-worshippers; gathering them together to worship Baal, he then had them murdered. Thus, Baal worship was eradicated from Israel. Sadly, he continued the sins of Jeroboam, though, and so God began to reduce the size of Israel in his days. In Judah, Athaliah, Ahab’s daughter,



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

killed almost all the heirs to the throne, but God used Jehoida, the High Priest, to overthrow her and preserve the line of David. Under his leadership Baal worship was wiped out in Judah, too. In seven “fast and furious” years God had given Israel and Judah another chance.

“I’ve Got the Power”

On the 90s show, “Star Search”, about every other dance group competed to the high energy song, “I’ve Got the Power”. Whatever the “power” was, it was nothing compared to the power of God through Elisha in 2 Kings 6-8. First, to recover a borrowed axe head at the bottom of the Jordan River, Elisha threw in a stick (???), and it made the axe head float to the surface. Causing iron to float was miraculous, but recovering the axe head so that it could be useful again parallels what the power of God does for our lives. Using another “stick” (the cross), Jesus died for our sins, allowing all who believe in Him to have their lives restored to usefulness as well. Elisha next showed divine awareness of the maneuvers of the Aramean army, so much so that the king wanted to know who the spy in the camp was. Being told that the man of God, Elisha, was responsible, he sent his army to bring him back. As they surrounded Elisha’s

house, his servant was panic-stricken; but Elisha, realizing God’s protection, prayed for God to open his eyes. He was then able to see the horses and chariots of the Lord already present to protect them. This teaches us that no matter how bad things get, God is already there, defending His children; we just need to believe and rest in His protection. This is easy to do when we depend on God, as we see Elisha doing in the next section. He prayed for the Lord to blind the Aramean army, and then led them into the middle of Samaria, Israel’s capital city, which was enemy territory. He then prayed for their eyes to be opened so they could see they were at the mercy of the Israelites. When the king asked Elisha if they should kill the Arameans he told him to provide them dinner instead. It says that, after they ate, these marauding bands never invaded Israel again. This shows that praying in simple faith releases God’s power, and

(2 Kings 6-8)

treating others with kindness may be more impacting than a great show of power. After this the whole Aramean army besieged Samaria during a famine, which resulted in almost nothing to eat. Food was so scarce that a donkey’s head (which had a distasteful, small amount of meat) was selling in today’s dollars for about \$500.00, and a half quart of dove’s dung for \$30.00. The situation became so severe that 2 women had even agreed to eat their children; but the 2nd one hid her child, and the matter came to the king’s attention. Hearing this, he tore his clothes (revealing the sackcloth of repentance beneath) and swore that he would behead Elisha because of this. Thinking his external repentance should force God to lift the siege, he apparently blamed Elisha for keeping them from God’s blessing; so, unwilling to wait for God any longer, he ordered the murder of Elisha. He failed to understand that no one, including Elisha, has the power

(Continued on page 2)

II Kings 6-8 (continued from pg 1)

to keep God from blessing His people, and he didn't understand that outward repentance only means nothing to God. But human nature typically looks for someone else to blame, so the king, with his messenger and royal official, came to murder Elisha. He told the official that food would be plentiful within 24 hours, but the official didn't believe him; so, Elisha told him that it would happen, but he wouldn't get to see it. That very evening 4 lepers, with nothing to lose, decided they would go to the Aramean camp to plead for food. When they arrived the army was gone, but all their supplies were there. God had caused the Arameans to "hear" advancing armies during the night so that they fled in panic. As the lepers began to gorge themselves on the food and plunder the campsite, they wisely realized that this news had to be shared with their fellow Israelites. So they told the gatekeepers, who reported this to the king, but he was afraid it was a trap; yet they overcame their fear and went to the camp. Additionally, with food in abundance again, God's word through Elisha was fulfilled. We learn from this that in order to receive the benefits of God's blessings, we must refuse to let our fears inhibit us. Also in fulfillment of Elisha's

word, as the people left, they trampled the royal official to death at the gate. This shows that when we fail to trust God He will still accomplish His will, but we will not get to enjoy the fruits of it. The lepers provide a great example for us. We, too, are outcasts from the world, but have news for overcoming spiritual death; so, we must pass it on to others, who will, by faith, be able to experience God's blessings, too. God's power is seen after this in the Shunammite woman. In faith she had left Israel, at the risk of losing her home-stead, to be preserved in Philistia. Incredibly, when she returned, the king had just heard about Elisha's restoration of her son. When she appealed to him to get her home back, he granted it immediately.



"To receive the benefits of God's blessings, we must refuse to let our fears inhibit us."

This shows that God is always at work, to restore our losses at just the right time, and to reveal His loving power in our behalf. Next, Ben-hadad sent to Elisha to find out if his illness was terminal. His messenger, Hazael, was told by Elisha that he would recover, but he would die anyway, at the hands of Hazael. Elisha wept as he saw the future evil that Hazael would inflict on Israel. In fulfillment of Elisha's word, Hazael killed Ben-hadad in his sleep. Finally, Jehoram, the next king of Judah, reigned 8 years, but did evil, unlike his father, Jehoshaphat. This shows that our children will choose for themselves, no matter how well we raise them. Israel's next king, Joram, and Judah's next king, Ahaziah, were evil, largely due to Ahab and Jezebel's influence. Unsurprisingly, Edom revolted during their reigns, since problems always come when we rebel against God's ways. In this study God's deliverance is seen in the recovery of the axe head, the defeat of the Arameans, the provision of abundant food, the restoration of the Shunammite's land and the murder of Ben-hadad by Hazael. The consequences of not following Him are seen in the royal official, Joram and Ahaziah. He is the One who can say "I've got the power".

Study Questions for 2 Kings 9-11

Jehu and Jehoida quickly carry out God's judgment on anyone and everyone associated with the house of Ahab.

1. Read 2 Kings 9:1-13. Who was anointed as king of Israel (v3), and for what purpose (v7-10)? How did his associates respond to this message (v12-13)? What does Jehu's commission tell us about God?
2. In 2 Kings 9:14-20 how did Jehu respond to God's orders (v14, 15-16, 18, 19, 20)? How does this provide a good example for us?
3. From 2 Kings 9:21-26 what did Jehu identify as Israel's (Joram's) problem (v22)? How did Joram react (v23), and what was Jehu's response (v24-25)? Why did he do this (v25-26—see 1 Kings 21:19-24)?



"Problems always come when we rebel against God's ways."

4. In 2 Kings 9:27-29 who else was killed by Jehu (v27)? Why did God judge him (see 2 Kings 8:26-27)? Why was it important for Jehu to deal with him, too? What principle does this teach us?

5. Looking at 2 Kings 9:30-37 who was next on Jehu's "hit list" (v30)? What 2 absurd things did she do (v30, 31—see 1 Kings 16:9-10) and how did Jehu respond (v32-33)? How did this fulfill the Lord's word (v35-37)?

6. Using 2 Kings 10:1-11 who did Jehu go after (v1), and by what method (v3-4)? What was their reaction (v4), and their household's (v5)? What did they do for Jehu (v6-7), and how did he comfort them (v9-10)?

7. From 2 Kings 10:12-17 how was Jehu's "zeal for the Lord" illustrated (v13-14, 17)? Who did Jehu partner with (v15) and what was he like (see Jeremiah 35:6-7, 18-19)? What does this say about Jehu?

8. Read 2 Kings 10:18-28. Who else did Jehu destroy (v23-25), and how (v18-22)? What else did he do (v26-27) and what was the result (v28)? What makes this a good plan for dealing with evil in our lives?

9. In 2 Kings 10:29-36 how did God evaluate Jehu's reign for good (v30) and not so good (v29, 31)? What was the result of each (v30, 32)? What should he have done differently (v31)? Apply this to our lives.

10. From 2 Kings 11:1-12 what evil thing did Athaliah do (v1), and why did she do it? Who was hidden (v2), and who did God use to keep David's descendants on the throne (v2, 4-12)? What does this teach us?

11. Using 2 Kings 11:13-21 what was Athaliah's reaction (v13-14), and her final outcome (v15-16)? How did Jehoidah complete his job fully (v17, 18, 19), and what was the result (v20)? What do we learn here?

12. List the elements of evil that were eradicated in this study (9:21-26, 27-28, 30-33; 10:1-11, 12-14, 18-28; 11:13-16, 17-18). Why was it important to be so thorough (see 10:29-33) and how can we apply this to our lives?



Memory Verse

"Know then that there shall fall to the earth nothing of the word of the Lord."
2 Kings 10:10