



STORIES OF ELIJAH & ELISHA



Sermon Outline

Key verse

Blessings will come on you and accompany you if you obey the Lord your God. The Lord will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. The Lord your God will bless you in the land he is giving you.

Deuteronomy 28:2, 8

God blesses his people

1. Elisha was blessed with a wise mentor

Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak around him. Elisha then left his oxen and ran after Elijah.

1 Kings 19:19-20

2. Elijah was blessed with never tasting death

As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind.

2 Kings 2:11

3. The widow was blessed with an abundance

Elisha said, "Go around and ask all your neighbors for empty jars. Don't ask for just a few. Then go inside and shut the door behind you and your sons. Pour oil into all the jars."

2 Kings 4:3-4

ELISHA & THE WIDOW'S OIL

Opening Thought

Elisha succeeded Elijah as Israel's leading prophet. The Lord blessed them both in mighty ways. When a widow called for Elisha to help her, the Lord blessed her with an abundance. The scriptures teach that God blesses his people. We must count our blessings and be grateful to the Lord for all he does for us.

For personal reflection or group discussion.

- If you were granted one wish. What would it be?
- What is the last thing you borrowed from a neighbor?

Questions to go deeper in your faith.

Today we talked about how God blessed Elisha, Elijah, and the widow. How has God blessed you?

Elisha told the widow to collect many jars (2 Kings 4:3). The oil flowed until each one was full. Do you think she wished she had collected more? Why or why not?

Discontentment is a chronic problem in our culture. Why is it so easy to focus on what you don't have?

Today John said, "God is looking for empty jars that he can fill. When we empty ourselves of self, pride, and our own agendas, and come to God totally empty, he fills our lives." What are you feeling low on right now? (time, energy, peace, patience, etc.)

Elisha had Elijah as a mentor. Who do you have in your life that fills that role? Who is shaping you?

Next Steps

Spend time this week thanking God for his blessings.

Ask the Lord to fill your life in areas that you are empty.

Consider who the Lord might use you to mentor and disciple.

Prayer

Lord, thank you for your blessings. Fill me with your Holy Spirit and help me to know you better. Give me strength to serve you and compassion for those you put in my life. In Jesus' name. Amen.