

Life Group Guide: "Lord, Open Our Eyes"

Based on 2 Kings 6

Overview

This week's message drew from the story of Elisha and the school of prophets in 2 Kings 6. Through three vivid moments: a place grown too small, a borrowed axe head lost in the river, and an army of heavenly chariots surrounding a frightened servant, we were challenged to see our lives, our circumstances, and our church through the eyes of faith rather than the eyes of fear. The central cry of the message is simple and powerful: Lord, open our eyes.

Key Takeaways

1. **Open our eyes to see beyond where we are.** The place where the prophets were meeting had become too small. Sometimes our greatest limitation is not our circumstances but our thinking. God will not take a church or an individual somewhere its people cannot picture themselves going.
 2. **Open our eyes to see what God can restore.** The lost axe head was not just a tool, it represented a debt that could crush generations. Yet God brought it back to the surface. What feels permanently lost in your life may be exactly what God is preparing to restore.
 3. **Open our eyes to see differently before we ask God to change the situation.** Elisha did not pray for the army to disappear. He prayed for his servant's eyes to be opened. Sometimes God changes our perspective before he changes our problem, and that shift is the miracle.
 4. **Open our eyes to see that God has been around us the entire time.** The chariots of fire were already there before Elisha prayed. The army of God did not arrive, it was revealed. God is already present in your story, your pain, and your season.
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Discussion Questions

Opening (Choose one to get the conversation started)

- Describe a time when you were surprised by something that had been right in front of you the whole time but you had not noticed it. What made you finally see it?
- When you hear the phrase "Lord, open my eyes," what is the first area of your life that comes to mind?

Going Deeper

1. In 2 Kings 6, the sons of the prophets recognized that the place where they were meeting had become too small. They did not just complain about it; every man picked up a beam and went to work. Where in your life or your faith do you sense that you have outgrown the current container? What would it look like to pick up your beam and get to work?
2. The servant who lost the axe head cried out immediately. He did not try to hide the problem or fix it on his own. How easy or difficult is it for you to be honest about where your faith, your prayer life, or your walk with the Lord has "fallen into the water"? What makes that kind of honesty difficult?
3. The message pointed out that the axe head sinking into the water is a picture of a debt that could not be paid on its own, and that the piece of wood thrown in points to the cross of Jesus Christ. Galatians 3 describes how Christ became a curse for us so that what was buried could rise again. How does seeing the gospel woven into this Old Testament story affect the way you read Scripture? Does it change how you see your own story?
4. Elisha's prayer in 2 Kings 6:17 was not "Lord, remove the army"; it was "Lord, open his eyes." The servant's circumstances did not change in that moment, but his perspective did. Can you think of a situation in your own life where God changed how you saw something rather than changing the situation itself? What was that like?
5. The message emphasized that the chariots of fire were already there; they did not show up when Elisha prayed. They were simply revealed. How does it change your faith to consider that God's presence and provision in your life may already be surrounding you, even in moments when you cannot see it?
6. The sermon challenged everyone in the room to get off the sidelines and play a part in the larger story. It noted that not every beam is lumber; some people carry the gift of prayer, some carry generosity, some carry specific skill sets. What is your beam? What has God placed in your hands that the church or your community needs right now?

Reflection Questions

- Which of the four key takeaways from this message landed most personally for you, and why?
- Is there an area of your life where you have been treating something temporary as if it were permanent? What would it look like to bring that before the Lord this week?
- The message closed with a challenge: just do not quit. Is there something you have been close to giving up on a relationship, a calling, a habit of faith, that this message is speaking directly into?

Practical Applications

This week, try one or more of the following:

- **Pray with new eyes.** Set aside time this week specifically to pray the prayer Elisha prayed: "Lord, open my eyes that I may see." Rather than bringing a list of requests, spend that time asking God to shift your perspective on one specific situation in your life.
- **Identify your beam.** Write down one gift, skill, or resource you have that could serve your church or community. Then take one concrete step toward offering it, whether that means reaching out to a ministry leader, signing up to volunteer, or simply telling someone in your group what you sense God is calling you to do.
- **Find the gospel in the Old Testament.** Pick one Old Testament passage this week and read it slowly, looking for a picture of Jesus - redemption, restoration, sacrifice, or resurrection. Share what you find with your group next time.
- **Locate where the axe head fell.** In a journal or in prayer, honestly identify one area where your faith or your walk with the Lord has grown cold or gotten lost. Bring it to the surface by naming it before God and asking him to restore it.
- **Encourage someone who is close to quitting.** Think of one person in your life who may be ready to give up on their faith, their family, or their calling. Reach out to them this week with a word of encouragement rooted in what God spoke to you through this message.

Closing Prayer

Close your group time by praying together. You may use this as a guide:

Father, thank you for your word that is alive and active. We ask you to open our eyes -- to see beyond where we are, to see what you can restore, to see our circumstances through a heavenly perspective, and to see that you have been with us the entire time. Where our faith has grown small, enlarge it. Where we have lost something we cannot recover on our own, we trust you to bring it back to the surface. We give you our yes, even when we do not know what that means yet. In Jesus' name, amen.