

## Small Group Guide: Faith in God's Promises

Based on 2 Kings 7



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### OPENING PRAYER

Begin your time together by asking God to open your hearts to His truth and help you apply His Word to your daily lives.

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### ICEBREAKER

Share a time when you had to make a decision based on limited information. Did you choose to "go and see" or did you hold back? What was the outcome?

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### SERMON RECAP

This passage shows us the siege of Samaria, where people were starving and hopeless. Despite the dire circumstances, Elisha prophesied that by the next day, food would be abundant and cheap. Four lepers discovered the abandoned Syrian camp and brought the good news back to the city. God fulfilled His promise exactly as spoken, but one officer who doubted never got to partake in the blessing—he saw it but was trampled at the gate.

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## KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. **God keeps His promises** - Even when circumstances seem impossible
2. **Faith requires action** - "Go and see" rather than remaining in doubt
3. **Rejection of God leads to death** - Separation from God is separation from life itself
4. **Difficulties have an expiration date** - Whether resolved on earth or in eternity
5. **Don't trade evidence for excuses** - Some people will reject God despite overwhelming proof

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Understanding the Text

1. What was the situation in Samaria before God's intervention? How desperate had things become?
2. Why did the four lepers decide to go to the Syrian camp? What does their reasoning reveal about their situation?
3. What caused the Syrian army to flee? What does this tell us about God's power?

### Personal Reflection

4. The lepers initially kept the good news to themselves before their conscience convicted them. Have you ever experienced a spiritual blessing but hesitated to share it with others? What changed your mind?
5. The king's first response to the good news was skepticism—"It's a trap!" When have you responded to God's promises with doubt rather than faith? What was the result?
6. The officer said, "Even if the Lord made windows in heaven, how could this thing be?" Can you identify areas in your life where you've placed limits on what God can do?

### Application

7. The servant suggested, "Let us send them and see." What does it look like practically to "go and see" if God's promises are true in your current situation?

8. The sermon mentioned that some people "avoid the evidence to find the excuse." Why do you think people do this? What excuses have you used to avoid fully surrendering to God?
  9. How does understanding that "difficulties have an expiration date" change the way you face current challenges?
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## **PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS**

### **This Week's Challenge**

Choose one of the following to practice this week:

#### **Option 1: Go and See**

- Identify one promise from Scripture you've struggled to believe
- Research that promise (context, other related passages, testimonies)
- Journal about what you discover and share with the group next week

#### **Option 2: Share the Good News**

- Like the lepers who couldn't keep silent, share one way God has been faithful with someone who's struggling this week
- Don't just enjoy God's blessings privately—be intentional about encouraging others

#### **Option 3: Evidence Inventory**

- Make a list of times God has been faithful in your life
  - When doubt creeps in, review this "evidence" rather than looking for excuses
  - Add to it regularly as you see God work
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## **DEEPER DIVE**

### **For Further Study**

- Read Romans 8:28-39 - God working all things together for good
- Read John 3:16-21 - Belief vs. unbelief and their consequences
- Read Hebrews 11 - Examples of faith in action

## Reflection Questions for Personal Time

1. Am I believing **that** Jesus is real, or am I believing **in** Jesus (trusting/sitting in the chair)?
  2. Where am I currently "sitting outside the gate" when God may be calling me to "go and see"?
  3. What would weeping vs. gnashing of teeth look like in my response to being wrong about something spiritual?
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## PRAYER FOCUS

### Pray for:

- Faith to believe God's promises even when circumstances seem impossible
  - Courage to "go and see" rather than remain in comfortable doubt
  - Compassion to share good news with those who are spiritually starving
  - Those in your circle who are rejecting God despite evidence—that their hearts would soften
  - Strength to persevere through current difficulties, trusting in God's timing
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## CLOSING THOUGHT

"If you put your faith and trust in what Christ did on the cross and receive new life from the resurrection, you don't have to worry about weeping or gnashing of teeth. Don't suffer the evidence for an excuse."

The question isn't whether God can fulfill His promises—He always does. The question is whether we'll trust Him enough to act on those promises and share the good news with others who are dying of spiritual starvation.

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## NEXT WEEK

Come prepared to share how God showed up when you chose to "go and see" this week.

## 5-Day Devotional: Trusting God's Promises in Difficult Times



### Day 1: God Sees What We Cannot

**Reading:** 2 Kings 6:8-17

**Devotional:** When Elisha's servant saw the Syrian army surrounding them, fear gripped his heart. Yet Elisha remained calm, knowing a greater reality existed beyond physical sight. When God opened the servant's eyes, he saw the heavenly army protecting them—horses and chariots of fire surrounding the mountain.

In your difficulties, remember that what you see is not the complete picture. God's protection and provision often work invisibly around you. The enemy may appear overwhelming, but those who are with you are greater than those against you. Today, ask God to open your spiritual eyes to see His presence in your circumstances. Trust that He is working even when you cannot perceive it. Your limited perspective doesn't limit God's unlimited power.

## **Day 2: Choosing Faith Over Excuses**

**Reading:** 2 Kings 7:1-2; Hebrews 11:1, 6

**Devotional:** The officer who doubted Elisha's prophecy had witnessed countless miracles, yet he chose skepticism over faith. Despite overwhelming evidence of God's faithfulness, he found an excuse to reject the promise. His response reveals a sobering truth: some will reject God regardless of evidence.

Faith is not blind—it's choosing to trust God's character and promises over present circumstances. You face a daily choice: will you seek evidence to strengthen faith or excuses to justify unbelief? Examine your heart honestly. Are there areas where you're avoiding God's truth to maintain control? Don't let pride or fear keep you from receiving God's blessings. Seek Him genuinely, and you will find Him. The evidence of His faithfulness surrounds you—choose to see it.

## **Day 3: When Difficulty Has an Expiration Date**

**Reading:** 2 Kings 7:3-11; Romans 8:28

**Devotional:** Four leprous men faced impossible circumstances—disease, famine, and war surrounded them. Yet their pragmatic decision to surrender led them to discover God's miraculous provision. The Syrian army had fled, leaving abundant supplies behind. Their suffering had an expiration date they couldn't see.

Your current difficulty, no matter how overwhelming, is temporary. God works all things together for good for those who love Him. The famine in Samaria seemed endless until suddenly it wasn't. God can change your situation in a moment. Meanwhile, He's developing perseverance, character, and hope within you. Like those lepers, take the next faithful step, even when outcomes seem uncertain. God may be preparing blessing just beyond your current vision. Trust that your difficulty will end—either in this life or the eternal one to come.

#### **Day 4: From Selfishness to Sharing Good News**

**Reading:** 2 Kings 7:8-11; Matthew 28:18-20

**Devotional:** The lepers initially hoarded their discovery, enjoying the feast while their people starved. Then conviction struck: "This is not right. This is a day of good news, and we remain silent." They chose to share rather than selfishly consume.

When you encounter God's grace, transformation, or provision, you face the same choice. The gospel is good news meant to be shared, not hoarded. Your testimony of God's faithfulness could be the hope someone desperately needs. Perhaps you've experienced healing, provision, or peace in difficulty—that's not just for you. Like these lepers, recognize that remaining silent when you have good news is wrong. Who in your life needs to hear about God's goodness? Don't wait for the perfect moment. Go tell someone today about what God has done.

#### **Day 5: Believe In, Not Just Believe That**

**Reading:** John 3:16-18; James 2:19

**Devotional:** The officer believed that miracles could happen—he'd seen them. But he didn't believe in God's promise enough to trust it. There's a crucial difference between intellectual acknowledgment and life-transforming faith. You can believe that a chair will hold you without ever sitting in it.

Many people believe that Jesus existed, that He died, and perhaps even that He rose again. But saving faith requires more—it demands trust, surrender, and following. The demons believe in God and tremble, yet they're not saved. True faith confesses Jesus as Lord and trusts in His resurrection for salvation. It changes how you live, not just what you mentally accept. Examine your faith today: Have you merely acknowledged Jesus, or have you truly trusted in Him? Are you sitting in the chair, or just admiring it from a distance? Authentic faith transforms everything.