



Family Devotions



Greater is He that is in You

Scripture: 2 Kings 6:8-23 (the focus is on verses 8-17)

Memory Verse: 1 John 4:4

“You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”

For My Family

In 2 Kings 6, we read of a king who was very frustrated. The king of Syria kept trying to fight against the armies of Israel, but the prophet Elisha would hear of his plans from the Lord and warn the king of Israel, and so the king of Syria's plans were defeated. He realized that the only way he could win is if he could somehow get rid of Elisha, so he came up with a plan. He sent a giant army with horses and chariots to surround Dothan, the city where Elisha was staying. There would be no escape for Elisha, and the Syrians would be able to get rid of him once and for all.

That morning, Elisha's servant woke up and saw that they were surrounded. He ran to Elisha in a panic. What were they going to do? How could they escape this army? Yet even as the servant described the situation they were in, Elisha was not worried, and he told the servant that there were more fighting on their side than on the enemy's side. The servant must have thought, “How could that be? There are only two of us, and this army is enormous!” Elisha prayed and asked the Lord to open his servant's eyes, and then the servant saw that surrounding the Syrian army was a greater army with flaming chariots. The Lord was in control, and He was fighting for them. Elisha prayed and God struck the Syrians with blindness, and they were sent back to Syria.

It's easy to understand why the servant was so afraid. All he could see at first was the armies of Syria, and that army was huge and terrifying! But even though Elisha saw the same army the servant did, he wasn't worried because He knew an important truth: God is in control. And that wasn't just true in today's story. It's true all the time! No matter what happens or what we face, no problem is too big for God.

So when you are afraid, remember what Elisha said: “Those who are with us are more than those who are with them,” or what John said in 1 John 4:4, “He who is in you (Jesus) is greater than he who is in the world.” When we look at our problems, we might get overwhelmed and be tempted to be afraid. But when we remember that God is in control and that He is bigger and stronger than anything we face, we don't have to worry or fear.

Questions for Young Children:

Why do you think Elisha's servant was so scared? Why wasn't Elisha afraid?

Was God in control of Elisha's problem? Is He in control of your problems?

What are some things that worry or scare you? What should you do when you are afraid?

Questions for Teens and Pre-teens:

What was the difference between how Elisha and his servant viewed the problem? When you face a problem, do you tend to see things more like the servant or like Elisha?

Has God ever delivered you from a difficult, scary, or seemingly impossible situation? How did He do it?

What are some situations you may face when it would be important to remember that God is in control?