

T2 BIBLE STUDY BOOK

BIBLE STUDY PROGRAM – TERM 2 2024

- The God who Raises -

| Study # | Title | Reading Plan | Page # |
|---------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------|
| | Bible Reading Plan | | 2 |
| | Introduction | | 3 |
| | Kings Of Judah & Israel | | 6 |
| | Мар | | 7 |
| Study 1 | The God who Provides | 1 Kings 16:29-17:24 | 8 |
| Study 2 | The Showdown | 1 Kings 18:1-46 | 11 |
| Study 3 | Zealous for the Lord | 1 Kings 19:1-18 | 14 |
| Study 4 | Justice and Mercy | 1 Kings 21:1-29 | 17 |
| Study 5 | The Powerful Word of God | 1 Kings 22:1-40 | 20 |
| Study 6 | Passing the Mantle | 1 Kings 19:15-21 & 2 Kings 2:1-25 | 23 |
| Study 7 | The God of the Foreigner | 2 Kings 5:1-27 | 26 |
| Study 8 | From Famine to Feasting | 2 Kings 6:24-7:20 | 30 |

Bible Reading Plan

Looking for something to read in your personal devotion time? Every term we put together a bible reading plan that complements our sermon series.

As we look at 1 & 2 Kings, focusing in on Elijah and Elisha, we'll read alongside it:

- Luke 1-3: focusing in on John the Baptist (the Elijah to come)
- 1 Peter: about persevering in the faith and living holy lives for God
- Micah: and his vision about Samaria & Jerusalem (the focus of 1&2 Kings)
- *Hebrews*: God's mercy in Jesus, raising him from the dead so that by faith we might be welcomed as his people
- Jude: Perseverance amidst those who reject God

We'll also lead into our Term 3 series on serving by reading 2 Corinthians, Ruth and Philemon.

| 6th-12th May | 13th-19th May | 20th-26th May |
|--|--|----------------------------|
| Luke 1:1-38 | 1 Peter 1:1-12 | 1 Peter 4:1-19 |
| Luke 1:39-80 | 1 Peter 1:13-25 | 1 Peter 5:1-14 |
| Luke 2:1-21 | 1 Peter 2:1-10 | Micah 1:1-16 |
| Luke 2:22-51 | 1 Peter 2:11-25 | Micah 2:1-13 |
| Luke 3:1-20 | 1 Peter 3:1-22 | Micah 3:1-12 |
| 27th May-2nd June | 3rd-9th June | 10th-16th June |
| Micah 4:1-13 | Hebrews 1:1-14 | Hebrews 5:11-6:12 |
| Micah 5:1-15 | Hebrews 2:1-18 | Hebrews 6:13-7:10 |
| Micah 6:1-16 | Hebrews 3:1-19 | Hebrews 7:11-28 |
| Micah 7:1-13 | Hebrews 4:1-13 | Hebrews 8:1-13 |
| Micah 7:14-20 | Hebrews 4:14-5:10 | Hebrews 9:1-15 |
| 17th-23rd June | 24th-30th June | 1st-7th July |
| Hebrews 9:16-28 | Hebrews 12:1-12 | 2 Corinthians 1:1-12 |
| Hebrews 10:1-18 | Hebrews 12:13-28 | 2 Corinthians 1:13-2:4 |
| Hebrews 10:19-39 | Hebrews 13:1-14 | 2 Corinthians 2:5-3:6 |
| Hebrews 11:1-16 | Hebrews 13:15-25 | 2 Corinthians 3:7-18 |
| Hebrews 11:17-40 | Jude 1-25 | 2 Corinthians 4:1-18 |
| 8th-14th July | 15th-21st July | 22nd-28th July |
| | | |
| 2 Corinthians 5:1-6:2 | 2 Corinthians 10:1-18 | Ruth 1:1-22 |
| 2 Corinthians 5:1-6:2 2 Corinthians 6:3-7:1 | 2 Corinthians 10:1-18 2 Corinthians 11:1-15 | Ruth 1:1-22 Ruth 2:1-23 |
| | | |
| 2 Corinthians 6:3-7:1 | 2 Corinthians 11:1-15 | Ruth 2:1-23 |

The God who Raises

1 Kings 16 - 2 Kings 8 Bible study Series

Introduction

This term we'll be working through the books of 1–2 Kings. Our section (1 Kings 16–2 Kings 8) focuses exclusively on the ministry of the prophets Elijah and Elisha. They, as well as other faithful prophets, serve and bring God's word primarily throughout the reign of King Ahab and Queen Jezebel, the most notorious and evil rulers in Israel's history. This series contains some of the wildest stories in the Old Testament and will leave us shocked and speechless, but most of all in awe of God who can do the impossible and is abounding in grace.

The story so far...

The book of 1 Kings begins with the transition of power from David to Solomon. In 1 Kings 8 we reach a high point in the Old Testament as the glory of the Lord fills the temple and Israel experiences peace. Yet, Solomon had a divided heart. He took many wives and introduced the worship of foreign gods.

The kingdom splits, creating the northern kingdom of Israel, and the Southern Kingdom in Judah. If you look at the chart of the kings, you will notice a trend of entirely idolatrous kings of Israel. Although Judah's kings were a little better, the majority were still described as wicked or conflicted at best. In 1 Kings 16–2 Kings 8, Elija and Elisha's ministry is almost exclusively to the Northern kingdom of Israel.

*It's important to note, that when I refer to "Israel" in these studies, I am usually speaking of the Northern Kingdom, not the united people of God.

Geography & Politics in 1 & 2 Kings

Israel & Judah were surrounded by foreign powers. Instead of trusting God to protect and deliver them, the temptation was to enter precarious political alliances. Not only would these often involve making tributes from the gold of the temple which belonged to God (1 Kings 15), it also included intermarriage which invited further idolatry. Ahab's decision to marry Jezebel, daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, sets the background for the introduction of Baal worship to Israel and thus the raising up of Elijah to bring God's judgement.

In this table are the major political powers that feature in 1 Kings 16–2 Kings 8. It might be helpful to familiarise yourself with the key locations on the map.

| Nation | Capital or major city | Key Players |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Israel | Samaria, Jezreel (summer palace) | Ahab, Jezebel, Ahaziah, Joram |
| Judah | Jerusalem | Jehosaphat |
| Aram (Syria) | Damascus | Ben Hadad, Namaan, Hazael |
| | | |

| Nation | Capital or major city | Key Players |
|--------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Moab | Dibon | Mesha |
| | Sidon | Jezabel, widow of Zarephath |

The God who raises

In the book of Deuteronomy 30:15-18 God gives his people a warning with huge consequences:

"See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. For I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess."

As we reach 1 King 16, God's people are hurtling towards exile and destruction. Nothing can stop this now. Yet, in these books we see snapshots of how even death cannot stop God. As Peter Leithart notes:

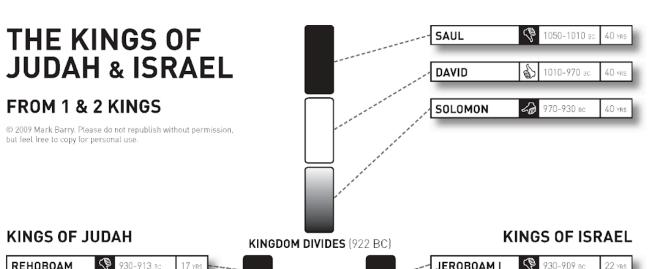
"The message of the prophets is not, "Israel has sinned, therefore, Israel needs to get its act together or it will die." The message is, "Israel has sinned; therefore, Israel must die, and its only hope is to entrust itself to a God who will give it new life on the far side of death." Or even, "Israel has sinned; Israel is already dead. Cling to the God who raises the dead."

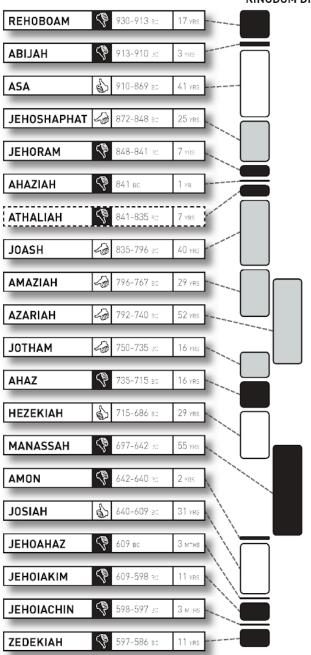
In 1 Kings 16 – 2 King 8, despite the immense wickedness of God's people, it is always trumped by God's unrelenting grace. Time and time again, we will be shocked by how merciful and kind He is, often postponing judgement in the face of ridiculous sin. Furthermore, in the most horrible of circumstances, we will observe the least likely foreigners finding new life in God, and experiencing a foretaste of the power of the God who raises the dead.

It is not difficult to see how the books of 1–2 Kings point us to the good news found in Jesus Christ. We all share a similar fate to the people of God. Our wages of sin deserve death, but God meets us with grace through the death and resurrection of his Son. As we hear in the book of Hebrews: *"In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven."* As the word of God came through the prophets Elijah and Elisha, might we pray that God will be working in us through the power of the Spirit that we might have soft hearts which lead to obediences and a deepening trust in Jesus.

<u>Resources</u>

- 1. "1 Kings: The Wisdom and Folly" & "2 Kings: The power and the fury" by Dale Ralph Davis
- 2. "1 Kings: Power, Politics, and the Hope of the World" by John Woodhouse
- 3. Alastair Roberts chapter by chapter commentary
 - a. 1 Kings- <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X531VO7jBgl</u>
 - b. 2 Kings -<u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CjoBm4jULF0</u>





JUDAH EXILED BY BABYLON (586 BC)

JEROBOAM I (P 9 909-908 B NADAB 2 yrs 9 BAASHA 908-886 в 24 YRS 886-885 R ELAH 2 vrs 9 ZIMRI 885 вс 7 days TIBNI 885-880 во 5 yrs Ţ OMRI 885-874 вс 11 yrs Ţ 874-853 во 21 yrs AHAB Ţ 853-852 BC 1 ⊻R AHAZIAH 9 JORAM 852-841 во 11 YRS Ţ JEHU 841-814 ec 28 yrs Ţ JEHOAHAZ 814-798 вс 17 YRS 9 JEHOASH 798-782 во 16 yps Ţ JEROBOAM II 793-753 в 41 yrs Ţ ZECHARIAH 753 вс 6 MTHS SHALLUM (**P** 752 вс 1 мн 9 752-742 во MENAHEM PEKAHIAH 742-740 в 2 vrs PEKAH* Ţ 752-732 в 20 yrs Ţ HOSHEA 732-722 вс 9 vR9

ISRAEL ASSIMILATED BY ASSYRIA (722 BC)

KEY

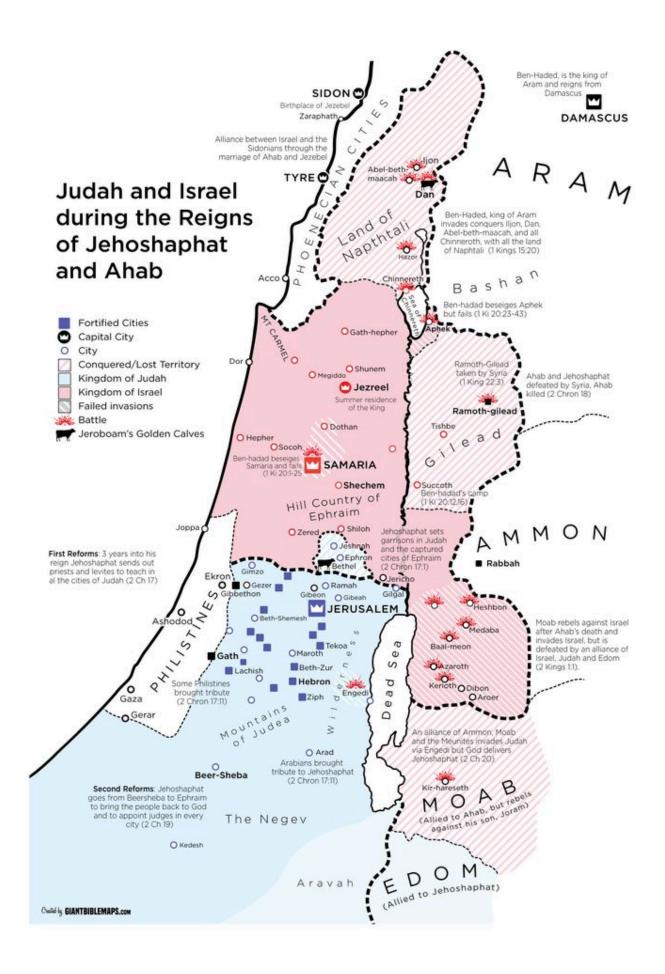


"Did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, as his father David had done."

"Did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, but not as his father David had done." (i.e. completely rid the land of idolatry)

"Did what was evil in the eyes of the Loro."

* Pekah's 20-year reign presumably includes a period of rule as rival to Menahem.



Study 1: 1 Kings 16:29–17:24_The God who Provides

Talk

Bible timeline activity. Download (<u>https://visualunit.me/2014/06/02/bible-timeline-cards/</u>), print off and cut up the cards. Mix up the cards, and as a group (or in teams), try to put the cards in order.

Investigate

Read 1 Kings 16:29-17:6

1) What is your first impression of Ahab? How does he notoriously disobey God?

2) Baal worship is a recurring theme throughout this entire section of 1–2 Kings. What do you know about Baal? What made it so attractive to God's people?

3) What is your first impression of Elijah? Does he remind you of anyone in the New Testament?

- 4) Why does God send a drought? What is the second drought in this passage, and what is its purpose?
- 5) Can you think of a time when God miraculously supplies food, and why might this connection be significant?

6) In this section, we see God's hostility and intolerance towards idolatry. What do you think are the most common idols today? How is God convicting you personally of things you worship in place of him?

Read 1 Kings 17:7-24

7) Where does God send Elijah next? Why do you think God sends him here?

- 8) Elijah is able to do two incredible miracles through God. Other than establishing Elijah's status as a true prophet of God, what further do we learn about:
 - a) The character of God
 - b) The future of God's people
- 9) Each week, we'll be connecting our passage to God's plan of salvation in Jesus Christ. How do we get a snapshot of the gospel here?

10) Elijah and the widow of Zarephath are wonderful models of listening and obedience to God's word. How might their example help us when we face hardship in life?

Give thanks for Rachel Burgess as she serves with AFES at the Australian Catholic University in North Sydney. Pray too for her husband Michael and little son Harry.

Give thanks for Rob and Jo Copland and their work with AFES at Wollongong Uni Bible Group.

Pray for Brett and Mardi Middleton, with Evie, Harriet, Olivia, and Willow. Please pray for Brett as he seeks to encourage, serve and build up the wider staff team. Pray for wisdom that he and the team develop ministry plans that will help St Luke's stay faithful and grow into the future.

Pray for those in particular need, that God would strengthen, sustain and provide exactly what they need. Pray for perseverance and peace amidst trial and suffering, that is only found in God.

Study 2: 1 Kings 18:1-46_The Showdown

Talk

Share with your group the places or situations where you find it hardest to be a Christian?

Investigate

<u>Read 1 Kings 18:1-15</u>

1) Our passage begins by reminding us that there has been three years of drought. Can you remember why there is a drought? How does this set the scene for what is to come?

2) Obadiah features heavily in this section. How do you feel towards him? Is he a compromised character, or an example of faithfulness? (As a bit of fun, you might like to divide your Bible study in two giving each a side to argue for)

3) How might Obadiah's example help us consider how we might be faithful if we live and work in hostile environments while not compromising?

Read 1 Kings 18:16-40

- 4) As you listened to this section read out are there:
 - a) Any repeated words or phrases that stood out?
 - b) Any Old Testament references, themes or allusions you noticed?

5) Compare the priests of Baal and Elijah. What strikes you about both and their sacrifices?

6) How do you feel about the bloody slaughter in this account? How is God's grace still front and centre?

7) This passage ends with the curious description of Elijah running ahead of Ahab. Why do you think this is included?

8) Each week, we are connecting our passage to God's plan of salvation in Jesus Christ. How do we get a snapshot of the gospel here?

9) Let's face it, we are rarely faced with "showdown" moments when we are forced into making a decision between worshipping God and a pagan gods. However, how in the *little* decisions and moments in our life can we choose Jesus first and say no to worshipping anyone else?

10) Have you noticed Elijah is a man who consistently prays (last week praying for rain, praying over the widow's son). In James 5:18–20, Elijah is commended as an example of prayerful perseverance. How might Elijah's example help spur our prayer lives on?

Give thanks for Brendan and Amy Garlett, and their family, as they serve among their people at the Shoalhaven Aboriginal Community Church (ShACC) in Nowra.

Pray for Jennie and Don Everist. Pray for Jennie as she ministers and cares for the people who attend the Thursday Service. Pray for her as she continues to pray and care for those who are unable to attend due to health.

Pray for our Church Wardens: Helen Webster, Phil Moss and Tim Clipsham.

Pray for our Parish Councilors: Brendan Carpenter, Amanda Garlato, Wes Hill, Alex Kiefer, Kathleen Price and Simon Veltmeyer (also our treasurer).

Pray for our Parish Nominators: Timothy Clipsham, Michael Easton, Amanda Garlato, Elise Hankin and Vicky Sawatt.

Pray for our Synod Reps: Michael Easton and Amanda Garlato, with Brett Middleton.

Praise God for our Bible Study leaders and for their faithful work in teaching and ministering to us throughout the term.

Study 3: 1 Kings 19:1–18_Zealous for the Lord

Talk

Share a time when you totally misjudged someone by their first impression. What changed your opinion of them?

Investigate

Read 1 Kings 19:1-18

1) What is your first impression of Elijah in this passage?

2) Interpreting this passage correctly hinges on an important decision in translation. Verse 3 is often translated as "Elijah was afraid." However, in the majority of Hebrew manuscripts, the better translation is "Elijah saw." What difference does it make if Elijah "saw" what Ahab and Jezebel were doing and then leaves?

- 3) Thinking particularly about 1 Kings 19:3-9:
 - a) Are there any echoes of Old Testament stories that you heard in these verses?

b) Are there any familiar themes from anything we've read in 1 Kings 17-18 so far?

Re-read 1 Kings 19:8-18

4) Where does Elijah go? Who else in the Old Testament stood in his same shoes? How does this help us understand Elijah's zeal? (Hint: Exodus 33:12-23)

5) Verse 12 contains another complex issue in translation. Instead of "gentle whisper" a more accurate translation is likely "a sound of thin silence." How does this change the usual interpretation of this verse? What then might God be teaching Elijah?

6) How does God assure Elijah that he has been heard and is in control?

7) Each week, we are connecting our passage to God's plan of salvation in Jesus Christ. How do we get a snapshot of the gospel here?

8) Twice Elijah's zeal for God is mentioned in the passage. Would you describe yourself as zealous for God? What could it look like for you to be jealous of the matters of God in your life?

9) Elijah felt all alone and had given up on God's people. How does this passage encourage us when it feels like people in our life will never change? (If you have time read Romans 11:2-6)

Give thanks for Shane and Ruth, with Kye, Joel and Finn, as they serve in Europe. Pray for them as they encourage believers and do gospel outreach.

Pray for Colin as Office and Site Manager for energy and enthusiasm as he looks after staff and the Church site.

Pray for Theny our Finance Officer that she would bring glory to God in her work as she assists our Wardens and Treasurer.

Pray for Lisa as Admin Assistant, as she looks after the administration of the Church.

Give thanks for the opportunity to care for children and teach them from God's word. Pray that God would continue to equip and provide for Kid's Hope Mentors and SRE teachers. Pray that God would stir up our hearts to pray for and serve in Kid's Hope and SRE as we seek to see many people find new life in Jesus and grow as His whole-hearted disciples.

Study 4: 1 Kings 21:1–29_Justice and Mercy

Talk

Share a time when you can remember watching something unjust taking place but you didn't speak up or do anything to stop it.

Investigate

Read 1 Kings 21:1-16

- 1) What is your first impression of the following characters?
 - a) Naboth the Jezreelite
 - b) Ahab
 - c) Jezabel
 - d) The elders and nobles
- 2) Why do you think Ahab wanted to acquire Naboth's vineyard?

3) Read Leviticus 25:23-28. Why was it right that Naboth refused Ahab's request?

4) Where else in the Old Testament do we read of people taking what doesn't belong to them?

5) If it is inevitable that God's people will enter into exile due to their sin, how is this section a paradigm of what the remnant should expect as they live under pagan rule? How is it similar to how Christians live now?

Reads 1 Kings 21:17-29

6) What is the message that Elijah brings to Ahab?

7) How do you feel about the ending of this passage? Why is it difficult to believe Ahab is truly repentant?

8) Each week, we are connecting our passage to God's plan of salvation in Jesus Christ. How do we get a snapshot of the gospel here?

9) How can we be comforted knowing that God will one day ultimately repay evil and bring justice to his world? How ought we live while we wait now?

10) Today in our passage I think we see numerous examples of spineless characters. As one scholar reflects on these verses, "injustice flourishes not only by wickedness but by weakness, not merely from a lack of goodness but by a lack of guts." What parts of your life do you feel you need more guts as a Christian?

Prayers

Give thanks for Kylie Zietsch as she serves with CMS at Johannesburg Bible College in South Africa. Pray for her as she settles back into JBC after being in Australia on Home Assignment.

Give thanks for Nonhlanhla (Non-Klan-Kla) Tshabalala as she studies in 2nd year at George Whitefield College in Cape Town, South Africa.

Give thanks for Natasha Norman as she assists and tutors students and works as the college registrar at Johannesburg Bible College, South Africa.

Pray for Jess and Luke Moran, with Cooper, Ace and Penny. Pray for Jess as she heads up the Children's Ministry at St Luke's, including KOS (Kids on Sunday), Primary Scripture and Children's Thursday afternoon programs.

Pray for our Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and his government, and our State and Local leaders and governments.

Study 5: 1 Kings 22:1-40_The Powerful Word of God

Talk

If you had to sum up your relationship with God's word at the moment in one word, what would it be? Explain why you've chosen that word.

Investigate

Read 1 Kings 22:1-28

- 1) What is your first impression of the following characters in this section:
 - a) Jehoshaphat
 - b) Ahab
 - c) Four hundred prophets & Zedekiah
 - d) Micaiah
- 2) What do we learn about the prophets that surround Ahab? Are there any echoes to earlier in 1 Kings 17-21?
- 3) What message does Micaiah give to Ahab?

4) We are given a curious glimpse into the courtroom of heaven. How are we to understand God sending a deceiving spirit?

5) Here we discover that false prophecy is not just coming up with your own words and calling it "God's word," rather it is misapplying God's words which have been to us. What examples have you observed of misapplying God's word in our day?

Read 1 Kings 22:29-40

6) What stands out to you about the battle at Ramoth Gilead and Ahab's death?

7) If you had to sum up the life of Ahab in one word, what would it be? What warnings do we get for our lives from his evil reign?

8) Each week, we are connecting our passage to God's plan of salvation in Jesus Christ. How do we get a snapshot of the gospel here?

9) Think back to the word you chose to describe your relationship with God's word earlier in the study. If it is currently going great, how can you remain reliant and obeying God's word? If the relationship is lacking, what steps can you take to grow in obedience to God's word?

Give thanks for Peter and Katharine Yock, with Noah and Atticus, as they serve with AFES at Griffith University in Brisbane.

Give thanks for Brenton and Melissa Kilby, with Evie and Micah, as they prepare to serve with CMS in Biharamulo, Tanzania. They plan to go there in July.

Pray for Amie and Brian Lichi. Pray for Amie as she works with Jess in Kid's ministry. Give her a heart to share the Gospel and energy to connect with families.

Pray for God's sustaining hand over those who are sick and recovering. Pray for those who care for them, both in their homes and by medical professionals. Pray for patience and perseverance for them, and us, as we groan and grow weary, waiting eagerly for the redemption of our bodies. Give thanks that there is hope, even in the frustration and suffering of our lives, because of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Study 6: 1 Kings 19:15-21 & 2 Kings 2:1-25_Passing the Mantle

This week marks the transition from the ministry of Elijah to the ministry of Elisha. To better understand Elisha and the trajectory of his mission, I made the decision to include his initial call narrative from 1 Kings 19:15–21 here as we enter the book of 2 Kings.

You will notice, we pick up 2 Kings from chapter 2. To summarise chapter 1, Moab rebels against Israel. The majority of the chapter concerns Elijah's judgement on Azariah, the son of Ahab. In the final verses of 1 Kings, we discover Azariah was just as wicked as his father and mother, and so suffers the same fate, thus fulfilling the word of the Lord.

Talk

Have you ever been given the responsibility of training up a new employee or volunteer? What made it difficult? What made it enjoyable?

Investigate

<u>Read 1 Kings 19:15-21</u>

1) What role will Elisha play in the mission given to Elijah? As we enter into 2 Kings how much progress has been made completing this task?

- 2) What is the significance of Elijah's cloak being passed onto Elisha?
- 3) How does Elisha show a sacrificial commitment to his call?

4) In Luke 9:57–62, we see a similar picture of what it means to follow Jesus. What things do you find hard giving up to serve Jesus wholeheartedly?

5) Make a list of all the locations mentioned in verses 1–23. Who else went to these same places? What connection is being made?

6) What does Elisha ask for? What does it mean?

7) On numerous occasions in this chapter, we note the presence of the "company of the prophets." How is this different from the ministry of Elijah? What might it be anticipating?

8) In this study, we have seen Elijah and Elisha following the pattern of Moses and Joshua. How is this pattern seen once more between Jesus and John the Baptist?

9) As we farewell Elijah, how would you sum up the prophet in one word? What is a characteristic of his life or ministry that has encouraged or spurred you on in your relationship with Jesus?

10) Why ought we gain courage knowing, like Elisha, we have received the power of the Holy Spirit? What is one difficult situation that you are facing this week where you need to remember this truth?

Give thanks for John Francis Wallace as he serves amongst his people as the pastor of a local church in Indore, India.

We pray for Nicole, Luke & Baby Murray. Give Nicole creativity and enthusiasm as she pastors our Youth and Young Adults before starting maternity leave. We pray for Luke, as he seeks to grow community at church and into Miranda.

Pray for Sam and Jess Morton, with Percy, Lois, Finn and Cleo. Pray for Sam as he heads up Youth Ministry and high school Scripture.

Pray for those in our local area who don't know Jesus. Pray for opportunities to reach out and invite them to consider Jesus.

Study 7: 2 Kings 5:1–27_The God of the Foreigner

Talk

What is the longest time you have gone without a shower or a bath?

OR

If your group likes drawing, you might choose to make a comic strip of this passage to help guide your discussion

Investigate

Read 2 Kings 5:1-27

- 1) There are quite a number of characters in this narrative. How many can you count? What is your first impression of the following characters:
 - a) Namaan
 - b) King of Aram
 - c) Young girl from Samaria
 - d) King of Israel
 - e) Elisha

- f) Namaan's servant
- g) Gerhazi
- 2) This entire narrative flows from the single action of a Samarian slave girl. What is impressive about her actions? Does she remind you of any other characters from the Old Testament?

3) Why do you think the King of Israel was so scared? Why do you think Elisha wants to help Namaan?

4) It seems like Elisha didn't meet Namaan in person. Why do you think he did this? What is significant about the instructions he gives to Namaan?

5) Re-read verses 15-18. What does Namaan do once he is cleansed? Does it remind you of other characters in the Old Testament?

6) Why does Elisha deny Namaan's gift? What purpose might Namaan have for wanting dirt (hint: Exodus 20:34)?

7) Why does Gerhazi act treacherously towards Namaan and then Elisha? How does he represent the people of God at this time?

8) Each week, we are connecting our passage to God's plan of salvation in Jesus Christ. How do we get a snapshot of the gospel here?

9) What impressed you most by the Samarian slave girl or Namaan's devotion to God in today's passage? Share one way you've been spurred on to live out this type of devotion in your life this week?

10) Namaan, an Aramean general, was probably the last person many Israelites would have expected to convert to worship God. How might this encourage us as we consider those in our lives who seem "impossible" for God to save?

Give thanks for Matt and Lauren, with Ezra, Joanna & Samuel, as they serve and conduct their business amongst an unreached people group in South East Asia. We give thanks for their Home Assignment till June.

Pray for Russell Denten as he seeks to help us worship faithfully during our weekend and midweek gatherings.

Pray for our Easy English team who teach English and share the love of Jesus with those in our community who are seeking to improve their language and connect with others. We pray those who attend will come to know true grace and freedom in Christ.

Pray for our Craft group that meets on Wednesday. Praise God for the amazing opportunity they have to share the gospel while crafting.

Study 8: 2 Kings 6:24–7:20_From Famine to Feasting

Talk

Share a time when you felt frustrated that God was not working in the timeframe you wanted.

Investigate

<u>Read 2 Kings 6:24-7:2</u>

1) Why was there a great famine in Samaria? When has a similar event taken place in the book of 1-2 Kings, and how might this famine be similarly symbolic?

2) What story in the Bible do these two women with their sons bring to mind (hint 1 Kings 3:16–28)? How could they potentially symbolise more than just two women fighting?

3) Why does the King of Israel blame Elisha?

4) What is the message Elisha gives the King?

Read 2 Kings 7:3-20

5) Why do you think God uses four leprous men to provide food for the city?

6) Why is the gateman crushed to death? What do we learn about the peril of not listening to God's word?

7) Each week, we have been connecting our passage to God's plan of salvation in Jesus Christ. How do we get a snapshot of the gospel here?

8) What promises of God do you find it hard to believe? How has God grown you to trust his word more?

9) Has God ever used a lowly person in your life to encourage or bless you?

10) In light of our series in 1–2 Kings, share with the group one thing you have learnt about God or His word, and one area of your life you'd like to see matured.

Give thanks for David & Kathryn Luis, with Reuben and Felix, as Dave heads up the AFES work at Geelong Christian Union at Deakin University.

Give thanks for Sarah and Tim Prabhakar Rufus, with Lizzy and Hannah, as Sarah serves with the Biblical Counseling Trust of India in Delhi. Sarah is on extended leave in Sydney as they care for their family.

We pray for our new Ministry Trainee Jake Pettit-Young, working alongside Luke Murray. We pray Jake is challenged and encouraged as he works in many ministries across St Luke's.

Thank God for the outreach that occurs in Anglican Christian schools and retirement villages in our community who share the good news of Jesus with families who don't know Jesus. Pray for the chaplains in those places that they would be bold for the Gospel.