

THE GOSPEL PROJECT

# UNIT 14

# RENEWAL



2 KINGS; HOSEA; JONAH



MEMORY VERSE

“Take words of repentance with you and return to the LORD. Say to him, ‘Forgive all our iniquity and accept what is good, so that we may repay you with praise from our lips.’”

—Hosea 14:2



# RESURRECTION

CORE PASSAGE: 2 KINGS 4:18-22,24-25,28-37

## CONTEXT

The prophet Elijah's ministry ended when he was taken up into heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha, his successor, went to Shunem, where he met "a prominent woman" who fed him and provided him a place to stay whenever he came that way. In response, Elisha desired to help her in some way. He learned she had no offspring and her husband was aging. Aside from the general desire to bear children, if she were to become a widow with no offspring, the Shunammite woman would be vulnerable and likely oppressed. Therefore, Elisha prophesied that in one year she would have a son, and it came to pass, just as Elisha had promised.

## KEY CONCEPT

**God has the power to overcome death.**

As you examine 2 Kings 4:18-22, 24-25,28-37:

- Recognize that when her son died, the Shunammite woman knew to seek God through His prophet.
- Consider that both the woman and Elisha needed to persist in their hope in the resurrection.



## TIMELINE

Elijah Anoints Elisha as His Successor (1 Kings 19)

Elijah Goes into Heaven in a Whirlwind (2 Kings 2)

**SESSION STUDY:**  
Elisha Raises the Shunammite Woman's Son to Life (2 Kings 4)

Ahab Dies in Battle, Fulfilling Prophecy (1 Kings 22)

A Shunammite Woman Shows Hospitality to Elisha (2 Kings 4)

Elisha Heals Naaman the Syrian of Leprosy (2 Kings 5)

## Daily Readings

☐ **Day 1:** 2 Chronicles 21

☐ **Day 2:** 2 Kings 2–8

☐ **Day 3:** 2 Kings 9–12

☐ **Day 4:** 2 Chronicles 22–25

☐ **Day 5:** 2 Kings 13–14

☐ **Day 6:** Psalm 30



Scan this QR code to access this session's Scripture passages.

## PERSONAL PREPARATION

2 KINGS 4:18-22,24-25

### GOD'S PEOPLE PUT THEIR HOPE IN HIM.

*Underline all the action verbs to reveal the fast-paced action of this narrative.*

**18** The child grew and one day went out to his father and the harvesters. **19** Suddenly he complained to his father, “My head! My head!” His father told his servant, “Carry him to his mother.” **20** So he picked him up and took him to his mother. The child sat on her lap until noon and then died. **21** She went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God, shut him in, and left. **22** She summoned her husband and said, “Please send me one of the servants and one of the donkeys, so I can hurry to the man of God and come back again.” . . . **24** Then she saddled the donkey and said to her servant, “Go fast; don’t slow the pace for me unless I tell you.” **25** So she came to the man of God at Mount Carmel. When the man of God saw her at a distance, he said to his attendant Gehazi, “Look, there’s the Shunammite woman.”

#### THEOLOGY CONNECTION

**RESURRECTION:** Both the Old and New Testaments teach that one day believers will experience a resurrection of the body from the dead (Isaiah 26:19; Ezekiel 37:12-14; John 11). The promise of the resurrection is found in the resurrection of Christ from the dead, and it will take place at the future return of Christ. Because Christ was the firstfruits of the resurrection, Christians can be assured that their resurrection will be similar in nature, meaning it will be both bodily and glorious (Philippians 3:20-21; Romans 8:22-23). The hope of the future resurrection gives Christians confidence that death has been defeated in the death and resurrection of Christ.



The Shunammite woman had placed her hope in God, supported His prophet, and experienced His blessing—she was given a son! But one day her son, whom she had not asked for, died of a sudden illness. One moment he was fine, the next, he had a headache, and within a few hours, he died in his mother’s arms. Can you imagine? She held the son God had miraculously given her and watched the child slip away.

But then the Shunammite woman did something unexpected. Instead of weeping over her son’s body, changing into mourner’s clothing, or preparing his body for burial, she laid him on Elisha’s bed and hurried to find the prophet. She hoped that the Lord through His prophet would intervene in her desperate situation. What faith! She pursued “the man of God” as quickly as possible and found him at Mount Carmel, the place where the Lord demonstrated His superiority to all Israel (v. 25; cf. 1 Kings 18:19-20).

**How would you react if you lost what was most precious to you?**

out to meet her and make sure everything was okay. The woman told Gehazi, “It’s all right” (2 Kings 4:26). When she reached Elisha, however, she clung to his feet in anguish. Gehazi tried to push her away, but Elisha realized something was wrong that the Lord had not revealed to him (v. 27).

The woman had told no one what happened to the child, refusing to accept her child’s death without first seeking the prophet’s help.<sup>1</sup> She had learned to place her hope in the Lord through her contact with Elisha. So when the unimaginable, unexpected tragedy happened, she wasted no time in exercising hope that the all-powerful God of Elisha could intervene. She exemplified Hebrews 11:6: “Now without faith it is impossible to please God, since the one who draws near to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.” In seeking after God, the woman pleased the Lord with her faith and compelled Elisha to act. God’s people place their hope in Him.

**What does it mean to put your hope in the Lord?**

Elisha had great affection and concern for the woman and her family, recognizing her from a distance. Seeing the woman approach, he sent his attendant, Gehazi,

## OUR HOPE RESTS IN THE RESURRECTION POWER OF GOD.

*Circle each time someone changes their physical posture,  
considering the significance of each action.*

**28** Then she said, “Did I ask my lord for a son? Didn’t I say, ‘Do not lie to me?’” **29** So Elisha said to Gehazi, “Tuck your mantle under your belt, take my staff with you, and go. If you meet anyone, don’t stop to greet him, and if a man greets you, don’t answer him. Then place my staff on the boy’s face.” **30** The boy’s mother said to Elisha, “As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So he got up and followed her. **31** Gehazi went ahead of them and placed the staff on the boy’s face, but there was no sound or sign of life, so he went back to meet Elisha and told him, “The boy didn’t wake up.” **32** When Elisha got to the house, he discovered the boy lying dead on his bed. **33** So he went in, closed the door behind the two of them, and prayed to the LORD. **34** Then he went up and lay on the boy: he put mouth to mouth, eye to eye, hand to hand. While he bent down over him, the boy’s flesh became warm. **35** Elisha got up, went into the house, and paced back and forth. Then he went up and bent down over him again. The boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes. **36** Elisha called Gehazi and said, “Call the Shunammite woman.” He called her and she came. Then Elisha said, “Pick up your son.” **37** She came, fell at his feet, and bowed to the ground; she picked up her son and left.

**Key Concept:** God has the power to overcome death.

Clinging to Elisha's feet, the woman reminded the prophet that he had promised she would have a son, and Elisha immediately understood this to mean the boy was either ill or dead (v. 28). So Elisha instructed his assistant to go quickly in his place; nothing was to interrupt his mission. Yet when Gehazi put Elisha's staff on the boy, nothing happened. But the story wasn't over.

Elisha and the Shunammite woman needed to persist in their faith and hope. Upon finding the boy, Elisha closed the door on the two of them and prayed. Then he lay on the boy, and the dead body grew warm, but Elisha needed to continue. He did not give up hope. He paced back and forth, undoubtedly crying out for God to intervene. Elisha bent over the boy once more, and this time, the once-dead child began to sneeze and opened his eyes, fully alive. Then the mother who fell at Elisha's feet in anguish and faith fell at his feet once again, this time in reverence to the Lord and His prophet.

**What role does persistence play in our prayers and hope?**

The Shunammite woman had no hope other than the resurrecting power of God. The resurrection of her son reminds us

of the resurrection of another son: Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is only in the resurrection of Jesus Christ that we have hope for our salvation from sin and to eternal life.

Without the resurrection, we are dead in our trespasses and sins (1 Corinthians 15:17; Ephesians 2:1). Because of Christ and His resurrection, our hope rests in the resurrection power of God who "loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

**How does faith in Jesus's resurrection and hope for the future resurrection impact your life?**

#### GOSPEL CONNECTION

Because God has the power to bring the dead to life, He was able to give His Son, Jesus, as a sacrifice, knowing He would be resurrected to defeat sin and death for the salvation of all who believe in Him.



## POWER OVER LIFE AND DEATH

*Read 2 Kings 4:18-22,24-25,28-37 and Mark 5:21-24,35-43.*

*Compare the similarities and differences between these two resurrections.*

**THE SHUNAMMITE  
WOMAN'S SON**

**JAIRUS'S  
DAUGHTER**

Knowing that God has the authority to defeat death, how should we approach death?

Knowing that God has the power to bring new life, what should be our response?

**Key Concept:** God has the power to overcome death.



## HEAD

What role does the hope of resurrection have in your understanding of salvation?

### PRAYING SCRIPTURE

Read Psalm 30 carefully and slowly, listing in the margin the attributes of God you come across. Once your list is complete, call upon the Lord, worshiping Him and thanking Him for each attribute as it encourages your hope in Him.



## HEART

In what areas of your life do you need to repent of resisting the joy, peace, and hope God provides?

### PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES



## HANDS

How will the hope of the resurrection motivate you to action this week?

