

# Five Questions that Must be Answered

## Lesson 4—How Big is Your God?

### OVERVIEW

Background Bible Passage: 2 Kings 6:8-23

Key Verse: Psalm 56:3—“When I am afraid I will trust in you.”

### BEFORE CLASS

**Preparation:** *Your preparation will determine the direction your class will go.*

- Consider fears in your life.
- Consider the depth of trust in Christ that is exhibited in your life on a daily basis. How “big” does this show that your God is?
- Study and prepare your lesson so that you are familiar with the teaching outline.
- Pray for each student by name.
- Use the Contact 1-2-3 system to the right to follow up on students who have recently missed on Sunday morning.

### CONTACT 1-2-3 SYSTEM

*CONTACT 1--The first time a student is absent, give him a call.*

*CONTACT 2--Following the second absence, send him a postcard.*

*CONTACT 3-- The third week they are absent, pay him a visit.*

*THINK ABOUT IT: What does it say to a student when they miss multiple weeks in a row and are never contacted? It says, “It really doesn’t matter if you’re here or not.” Small things communicate great messages. Let the three “small” things above communicate that you care and miss your students when they are absent.*

### OPENING ACTIVITY

#### Discussion

- *Did you have any fears about going back to school this year?*
- *What is the worst you’ve ever been afraid?*
- *What is your greatest fear right now? (Another way to ask this question is to say: What is the worst thing that could happen to you? This usually reveals a person’s greatest fear.)*
- *What do you normally do when you’re afraid?*
- *Can you name some stories in the Bible where someone was afraid? What did they do? Was this the right response to fear?*

- *If the way you live your life right now showed the world how big God is, do you think your actions and trust in God would paint an accurate picture of who He is? Why or why not?*

SAY: Today we're going to take a look at man named Elisha whose life showed how "big" his God was.

## BIBLE LESSON

### **Let students take turns reading 2 Kings 6:8-15**

Summarize the situation for the students and then ASK:

- *How would you feel if an army surrounded the city you were in for the purpose of capturing and probably killing you? What would you do—i.e., run, panic, surrender, fight, etc.?*

### **Read 2 Kings 6:16**

SAY: Elisha's response was immediate: "Do not fear." He didn't have to take time to "work up" trust in God. He was already living in a constant state of trusting Him so that when situations arose, he didn't have to stop and review the situation or even stop and pray about it—His trust was immediate.

- Think about tough situations that have happened to you: *How immediate was your trust? Did you fret and worry about the situation before handing it over to God? Or did you quickly find yourself with the peace that follows trusting Christ?*

### **Read 2 Kings 6:15-17**

- *When "bad" situations happen in your life, who do you identify with the most: the servant crying out, "What shall we do?" or Elisha who sees the situation through God's eyes?*
- *What is the difference between Elisha and his servant? (Elisha sees things from God's perspective. The servant sees them from the world's standpoint. Elisha looks through eyes of faith and trust. The servant sees through eyes of fear. Elisha is looking at how big God is. The servant is looking at how big the situation is.)*
- *What do you think you could do to help yourself walk in a constant state of trusting Jesus, regardless of what situations may come?*

SAY: The difference between those who see through eyes of faith (those who look at how big God is) and eyes of fear (those who look only at how big the situation is) depends on the depth of the person's relationship with God. To truly walk in an attitude of trust, a person must spend daily, uninterrupted time with the Lord. The more a person spends time with Jesus, the more that person will view all of life from His perspective.

- Answer this to yourself: *How are you doing when it comes to spending time with the Lord? Are you spending daily time in prayer and reading the Bible? Are you struggling in this area? If so, what do you think will happen to your time with the Lord when things in your life get really busy?*

● *If you don't make a priority to spend daily time with the Lord this school year, what difference do you think this will make in your daily life, your attitude, how you respond to situations and peer pressure, your relationship with your parents, how well you truly trust God?*

- *What other areas of your life will be affected? (Every area.)*

**SAY:** Elisha was a man of God who did incredible things. He is a great example of a person who was “in touch” with God. When situations came his way, he was able to immediately respond with faith and trust *without hesitation*. Consider the following example:

### **Read 2 Kings 6:1-7—The Floating Axe Head**

**SAY:** In this situation you again have a man who sees the situation through “natural” eyes, the way things physically are. He cries out, “Alas, my master! For it was borrowed.” In other words, “It’s gone! What am I going to do?” Then you have Elisha who sees the situation through the eyes of what God can do and how God can glorify Himself through the situation. God can do mighty things through a person who truly trusts Him.

**SAY:** Elisha’s relationship with God was so close that one day (2 Kings 4:27) the son of a woman he knew died and he seems surprised because God had not told him about it. Imagine having a relationship with Jesus that is so close that He becomes your teacher, that He warns you about specific things in your future and instructs you even using events from your past. Imagine having such a relationship with God that He tells you in detail, like in today’s story, the plans of attack of a king from another land. This is the kind of relationship that God wants with you but you will never have this kind of relationship nor the kind of immediate trust and action and peace that comes from being in touch with Him until you are actively spending daily time with Him.

- Consider this: *What do you lose by spending time with Jesus every day? What do you gain?*
- *What do you think stops most people from spending time the God on a daily basis? (They never create a habit of it. They are worldly-minded and not spiritually-minded and they’ll never become spiritually-minded until they spend daily time with the Lord, etc.)*

**SAY:** Now let’s finish the story.

### **Read 2 Kings 6:15-23—A Blind Army**

- Consider this: *Who is stronger—an army with chariots and weapons or one “unarmed” man whose trust is in God?*

**SAY:** There is no limit to what God can do through a person who is fully devoted to Him.

## KEY VERSE

**SAY:** Turn in your Bibles to Psalm 56:3.

### Read Psalm 56:3

- *Is it wrong to be afraid?* (No. This verse doesn’t say, “Don’t be afraid,” but what to do when you are afraid.)

**SAY:** The Hebrew term for fear means “to be afraid, stand in awe, fear.”<sup>1</sup> It refers to falling back or a cowering before a superior force, be it man, animal, or God.<sup>2</sup> Fear, in essence, is the realization that a person, situation, or series of events lords itself over you. Thus, you fear it, giving it honor and respect, cowering before it as your superior. When people see through eyes of fear, they live in submission to the events that surround them, especially those that are out of their control (i.e., an army surrounding you, an axe head falling into the water, etc.) because if you had complete control over your life, then nothing would worry you—you would have nothing to fear.

**SAY:** Faith, on the other hand, is the “fear of the Lord.” The “fear” of the Lord is the reverence and honor that you give to Him because He is Almighty. You are under His control, not the control of the events that surround you. The fear of the Lord leaves the believer with awe and a reverence in the presence of the King of kings and the Lord of lords who loves you and wants what is best for you. The “fear” of the Lord trusts that God is bigger than the situation.

Consider the following examples:

- Your parents are getting a divorce: *What would a response of fear look like? What would a response of trust in God look like?*
- Your dad loses his job and your family is running out of money: *What would a response of fear look like? What would a response of trust in God look like?*
- You are falsely accused of cheating on a test and might get suspended for it: *What would a response of fear look like? What would a response of trust in God look like?*
- A tornado is heading toward your home: *What would a response of fear look like? What would a response of trust in God look like?*

**SAY:** Do you notice the similarities? In any situation, the response of fear will always lead to worry, stress, anxiety, panic, ulcers, etc. The response of trust will always lay the situation before God, recognize how “big” He is, commit it to His care and experience the peace (even in the midst of the storms of life) that comes only from faith in Christ.

## WRAP IT UP

## Final Thoughts

**KEY:** Elisha's life and trust in God showed the greatness of his God. Our God is a big God, but sometimes we act like we have a small God because we're afraid—afraid to trust, afraid that God might let us down, or afraid that we're not good enough to do what we know God wants us to do.

- *Are you currently facing a situation in which you don't know what to do?*
- *Do you feel like your life is characterized by worry?* (Worry is the by-product of fear.)
- *Do you feel like your life is characterized by peace?* (Peace is the by-product of faith and trust.)
- *On a scale of 1 to 10, how much do you really trust God? Do you ever have trouble letting go of situations and leaving them with Him?* (The more you spend time with Jesus, the easier it is to “cast your cares” on Him.)
- *On a scale of 1 to 10, how immediate is your trust when tough situations enter your life?*
- *Are you walking in a close relationship with Christ on a daily basis?*


**SAY:** The next time you feel afraid, just trust—Jesus loves you. He won't leave you. He won't let you down. Your trust doesn't mean that the situation will go away or even that it will work out the way you want it to, but it means that you'll see it through different eyes and this trust will result in a peace that passes all understanding.

## Prayer Time

*Pray specifically today that your students will live a life of trust that will truly show how big our God is.*

List prayer requests below and on the back of this page and pray for your students throughout the week. *Ask if any of your students want to pray today.*

## Prayer Requests



<sup>1</sup>Malcolm Smith, Freedom From Fear (San Antonio: Malcolm Smith Ministries, 1993), 14.

<sup>2</sup>Stuart Berg Flexner and Leonore Crary Hauch, eds. Random House Dictionary of the English Language (New York: Random House, 1987), 560.