

More Than Meets the Eye

2 Kings 6:8-23; Prophets and Kings, pp. 254-258

Can you remember a time you were really afraid of something or someone? Was it a noise, a person, or maybe a situation?

In our Bible story for today, Elisha's servant was very frightened.

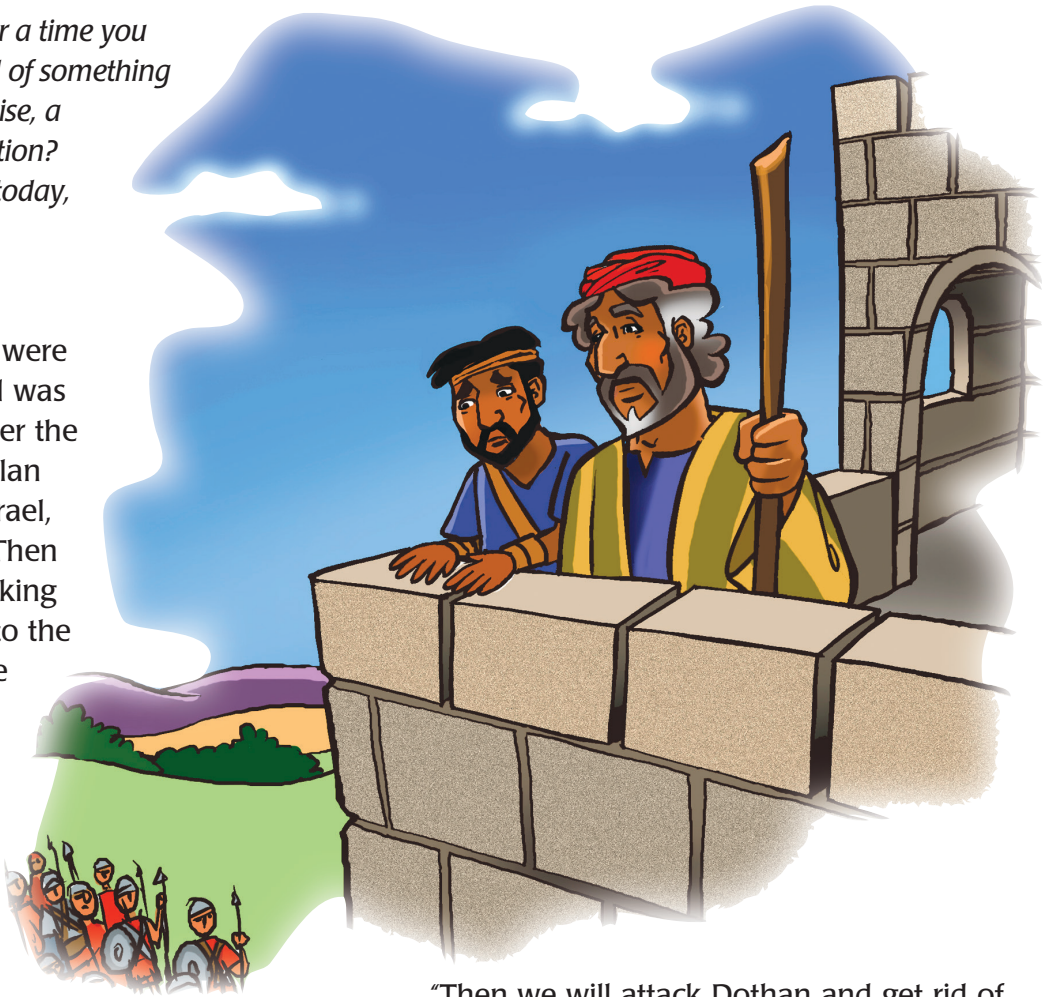
Israel and Aram were at war, and God was helping Israel. Whenever the Aramean king would plan to attack the king of Israel, God would tell Elisha. Then Elisha would warn the king of Israel: "Don't travel to the east today, because the Arameans are going to be there." And sure enough, the king of Aram would be hiding just where Elisha said. This happened time after time, and it made the king of Aram very angry.

"Who is a spy for Israel?" he growled at his generals.

One general knew the truth. "None of us are spies," he said. "But Elisha, the prophet, knows everything we are about to do—he even knows what you say in your bedroom!"

"Where is this man?" the king of Aram roared. "Go find out where he is so I can send men to capture him!"

The report came back: "He is staying in Dothan."



"Then we will attack Dothan and get rid of this nuisance," the king announced. He called his fighting men and sent them off to capture one lone prophet. The king was sure that if his army could capture Elisha, they could defeat Israel. What a foolish idea! Elisha hadn't been spying—God, who knew everything, was protecting His people.

One of the first people to wake up in the morning was Elisha's servant. He saw the large Aramean army camped around the city. He saw horses. He saw chariots. He saw armor glistening in the first rays of the rising sun.

The Message

God helps us when we are in trouble.

Memory Verse

"The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them"

(Psalm 34:7).

"What will we do?" he cried. Elisha's servant was afraid. He had forgotten whose side God was on.

Elisha hadn't. "Those that are with us are more than those that are with them," he explained to his servant. Then he asked God to open his servant's eyes.

When the servant looked again, he saw another army. It covered the hills around Dothan, and its chariots shone like fire! It was God's army, and His army wasn't going to let anything happen to Elisha and his servant.

Elisha prayed again. "Strike the enemy army with blindness, Lord." So God made the whole enemy army blind.

Then Elisha went out of the city. He marched right up to the blind general. "This isn't the road you want," he said. "Follow me, and I will lead you to the one you are looking for."

Elisha led the blind enemy army right to the king of Israel. Then God opened the enemy soldiers' eyes. They were trapped inside Israel's capital city!

"Shall I kill them?" asked the king of Israel.

"No," Elisha responded, thinking of God's grace. "Feed them, and then send them home."

That is exactly what the

king of Israel did. God had conquered the enemy with blindness, a good meal, and grace.

God helped Elisha when he was in trouble. He will do the same for you—because He loves you very much.



S A B B A T H

DO Take a nature walk with your family. Look for ways that creatures are protected from danger. Make a picture or word list of what you find. What other creatures are protected from danger, and how? For example: some play dead, some have sharp spines, some are camouflaged. (Ask a family member what that means.) Add these creatures to your list.

READ Read your Bible lesson together; then read Psalm 34:7. Thank God for His protection.



A custom in Bible times said that if you ate with someone, you would be friends, not enemies.

M O N D A Y

READ Read 2 Kings 6:8-10 during family worship. Think of a time God helped you when you were in trouble. Tell your family. Read Psalm 46:1 together. Thank God for His help.

DO Make a card for each word and number below. Then arrange the cards in order to review your memory verse.

angel them of the those Lord the
him, around he delivers who Psalm
encamps 34: and 7 fear

READ During family worship, read and discuss 2 Kings 6:11-14. What if the army was surrounding you? How would you feel? Read this promise in Psalm 91:9-11.

DO Fold a long strip of paper like an accordion, with a fold for each family member. Trace an angel on the front so it touches the folded edge. Cut out, except for the fold. Have each person name their angel and write it on their paper angel.*

DO Arrange your memory verse cards in order.

PRAY Thank God for your guardian angel.

*Adapted from Come Meet Jesus Program Guide: An Evangelistic Series for Children Ages 4-7 (Hagerstown, Md.: Review and Herald, 1998), pp. 209, 212.



T U E S D A Y

READ Together with your family, read 2 Kings 6:15-17. What do you think the fiery horses and chariots were made of? Hint: Read Hebrews 1:7. Draw a picture of the fiery horses and chariots around Elisha.

DO Arrange your memory verse cards without help.

SING Sing "All Night, All Day" (Sing for Joy, no. 50).

PRAY Thank God for angels who watch over you day and night.

W E D N E S D A Y

READ What trick did Elisha play on the enemy army? Read 2 Kings 6:18-20 with your family.

SHARE Find out three things about eyes that you didn't know before. Ask a family member to help you draw a picture of the main parts of your eye. Thank God for eyes that see.

DO Arrange your memory verse cards without help.

T H U R S D A Y

READ How did Elisha and Israel's king show grace? Together with your family, read 2 Kings 6:21-23.

DO Make a special angel (or use the one you made in Sabbath School) to share with someone. Write on the angel: "____ (friend's name) ____, God's angels are always with you." Decorate the angel and give it to a friend. Pray for that friend today.

DO Say your memory verse and draw a picture about what it means.

F R I D A Y

TELL Tell this week's Bible story to your family from a "walled city" you create from furniture or blankets. Say your memory verse together.

SHARE Read Hebrews 1:14. Share some angel stories you heard in Sabbath School last week. Ask if anyone can remember a time they felt their angel very near.

DO Before prayer, sing your favorite song about God's care. Then thank Him for it.

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PUZZLE

Directions: Unscramble the words in the following sentence to learn what Elisha's servant saw when God opened his eyes.

The _____ of _____ covered the

YMAR

ODG

_____ around _____.

LISHL

ADNOHT

GRACE

Directions: Elisha pointed people to God in many ways and places. Think about what he might have taken with him, and how he would have used it. Study the picture of Elisha and cross out those items he would *not* have had. Then create an "Elisha's pack" for yourself. Review lessons 5-8 about Elisha's work to get ideas. When you have the pack assembled, share it with your family during worship. Keep a record of the way you use your pack to help others.





SERVING PEOPLE IN GOD'S NAME SINCE _____



Bible ✓



prayer list ✓



story tapes ✓



dollar bills ✓



fruit ✓



Sabbath school papers ✓



songbook ✓
