

Resurrection Stories: A Risen Home

II Kings 4:8-37 || Pastor Paul Hahn || 9 May 2021

*To CARE for one another in truth and in love,
To GROW together as followers of Jesus,
To SERVE those God has placed in our path.
– CG Mission Statement*

Icebreaker: What is your favorite movie quote and why?

Worship: [Job 1:20-22](#) (*Remain a few moments in worship with this passage. What is God's invitation?*)

Sermon Summary for [2 Kings 4:8-37](#) (*Read the passage aloud before reading the sermon summary.*)

The Bible reminds us that families are both beautiful and difficult – places of wonder, and places of brokenness. The writer of Kings presses this down into our hearts. The woman of this story doesn't have a name, and her namelessness makes her a placeholder for each of our experiences. Her brokenness is our brokenness, whatever it may be. By pairing this story with the one before it, we're also reminded that the joys and hardship of family life are universal, even if what that looks like is vastly different. So, what do we do with this knowledge? This is a call to give freely and abundantly of whatever we possess. Otherwise, we are giving ourselves over to comparing, and that comparison leads to the opposite of generosity: envy... which can and will overwhelm us if we let it.

But sometimes, even when we get what we are yearning for in our families – when we find that great beauty we've long hoped for – it can leave us with even deeper pain. A deeper brokenness crashes in. In this story, the promise of a child was made to this woman and then miraculously fulfilled. But then that boy suddenly becomes sick and dies. The Lord has given, but the Lord has taken away (Job 1:21). Can we react as Job did in the midst of such pain, saying "*Blessed be the name of the Lord*" and mean it? To do so, we are going to have to grow a very large view of God. As John Newton wrote, "the Gospel has to work its way down so deeply and continually that we are able to find that the worst things are bearable and the best things are leaveable." Because God has been a bereaved parent too. He knows and has experienced our deep pain... and He brings resurrection into that space.

If we want resurrection in the middle of such brokenness, we need to allow our pains and our sufferings (especially those within our families) to get us before the face of God – at all costs, with authenticity and transparency. It is the turning point of this story found in Kings, and it is the turning point of our story. To be a Christian is to be in front of God, to fall at His feet. This is the essence of faith and how those gripped by the hope of Easter function. How is it that scripture can say it's a good thing for us to be afflicted (Ps 119:71), that our afflictions truly are light and momentary, creating in us an eternal weight of glory (2 Cor 4:17-18)? Because our afflictions uniquely press us before the face of God. We know God more deeply in them. We get more real with God in our afflictions than we can do in any other way. And He becomes more real to us, offering the rest we can only find in Him.

The Good News in all of this is that God will journey with us and surprise us with resurrection. This story in Kings is a picture of what Jesus has done and will do for us – stretching His life out over ours, merging our lives together with His – *to give us His life*. This is what raises us up. Wherever we are today as we walk with God, may we find His resurrections, may we worship and weep with joy and with hope at further resurrections to come in our families and in all of our lives.

Discussion Questions (You will not be able to discuss all the questions. Pick the ones you like. Some are personal perspective and application questions for life-transforming discussions.)

- Describe the nameless woman and her husband in this passage.
 - Why do you think she was so generous with her hospitality to Elisha?
- The mark of a risen home is giving out of the overflow of what we have. Consider what you have. How might God be inviting you to freely share?
- When Elisha wanted to give this couple a gift, what complication did he discover in this wealthy home?
 - The woman seems content yet hurting in her situation. How do we know this?
 - Name a time when God unexpectedly came into your life in a place of deep desire or need?
- What does this passage tell us about the faith of the Shunammite woman at the death of her son?
 - How does she show her strong trust in God?
- Compare the woman's statement "All is well" (vs 24, 26) with Job 1:20-21.
 - How are both statements of great faith?
 - How are they the characteristics of a risen home? Do you have a similar statement of faith?
- What circumstance brings you before Jesus, pouring your heart out to Him, walking with Him, waiting to see what He will do?
- In what ways is Elisha the foreshadowing of Jesus, the greatest of all prophets?
 - What would Jesus say about Himself from this story of Elisha and the nameless woman?
- How does this passage or sermon help you press on in joy, hope, and rest?

Prayer For the weekly Prayer Guide to use personally, with your group, or family click [HERE](#).

Engage & Experience: Generous Hospitality

We are recommending *The Art of Neighboring* by Jay Pathak and Dave Runyon ([site](#) | [book](#)).

For those of you who missed the Generous Hospitality Seminar, here is Dave Runyon's portion. Click [Here](#) to listen.

"'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind' and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27). Imagine if every Christian interpreted what Jesus said as the most important thing to do and actually did it. Imagine if every person made decisions about their schedules to make good neighboring a priority. There is so much potential. The world really could be changed.

The Art of Neighboring, page 180

- What would our city be like if every Christian made a decision to become a better neighbor?
- Continue encouraging each other to take the Great Commandment seriously by reaching out to your neighbors.
- Please share some of your neighboring stories with us! Email them to community@pacificcrossroads.org.