

## Discussion Questions for 2 Kings

Outline from Sunday's Sermon:

1. Actions have consequences. Therefore, think before you act!
2. God means what He says. Therefore, heed His Word.
3. God deserves your whole heart. Therefore, repent and turn back to Him.
4. God is faithful. Therefore, trust in His unfailing promises.

Discussion Questions:

1. Read 2 Kings 17:1-2 and 6-9. Israel acted no differently than the pagan nations. They built idols and worshiped false gods. In what ways are Christians influenced by the unbelieving world today?
2. In the world of wood-working, a popular saying is, "Measure twice, cut once." The message behind this phrase is this, "You can't undo what's been done." In what ways can our actions impact our own lives as well as the live of our families and our church?
3. Read 2 Kings 2:1-14. Elijah and Elisha were two prophets used by God to proclaim the truth and perform miracles. Elijah was, in a sense, Elisha's mentor. How can Elijah and Elisha be models for us in our walk with God?
4. God speaks to us today primarily through His Word. In what specific ways would you like to grow in your Bible intake (e.g. daily devotionals, in-depth study, listening to God's Word, etc.).
5. Read 2 Kings 20:3. Hezekiah, a good king from the southern kingdom of Judah, served God whole-heartedly, much like King David. This doesn't mean he was perfect, but like King David, he understood what it meant to repent, which is to turn away from sin. What safeguards are in place in your life to help you deal with temptation and sin?
6. Read 2 Kings 8:18-19. What was God's promise to His children? God's promise to those who put their faith in Him is eternal life. That's more than we deserve! The very subtle danger for Christians, especially in a nation like ours, is to somehow associate material advancement as a blessing from God in direct response to our efforts. The following quote is a portion of an article that Pastor Tim shared in his sermon. Read it together as a group and share your thoughts.

When I say that my material fortune is the result of God's blessing, it reduces The Almighty to some sort of sky-bound, wish-granting fairy...I can't help but draw parallels to how I handed out M&M's to my own kids when they followed my directions and chose to poop in the toilet rather than in their pants. Sure, God wants us to continually seek His will, and it's for our own good. But positive reinforcement? God is not a behavioral psychologist...Nowhere in scripture are we promised worldly ease in return for our pledge of faith. In fact, the most devout saints from the Bible usually died penniless, receiving a one-way ticket to prison or death by torture. If we're looking for the definition of blessing, Jesus spells it out clearly...Blessed are the poor in spirit. Blessed are those who mourn. Blessed are the meek. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness. My prayer today is that I understand my true blessing. It's not my house. Or my job. Or my standard of living. No. My blessing is this. I know a God who gives hope to the hopeless. I know a God who loves the unlovable. I know a God who comforts the sorrowful. And I know a God who has planted this same power within me. Within all of us. And for this blessing, may our response always be, "Use me."