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JULY 2020

2 KINGS 8:1-6

PRACTISE HOSPITALITY

Whenever Elisha and Gehazi, Elisha's servant, were in Shunem, there was a Shunammite woman who would show hospitality to them by providing a place to sleep and food to eat (2 Kings 4:8-10). Showing hospitality means being friendly and helpful.

One day, Elisha told the Shunammite woman to move to another place because he knew that there would be a famine in the land for 7 years. So, she and her family moved from that land so that they would not die of hunger.

After 7 years, she came back. Just before she went to meet the king to claim back her house and land that she had left vacant for 7 years, Gehazi was telling the king about the miracle that Elisha had ever performed to the woman's son. Because of this, not only did the king restore her land and house, he also gave her all of the income from the land from the last seven years!

The Shunammite woman showed heartfelt hospitality to Elisha. In return, God did not only protect her from famine, but He also rewarded her with big blessings. God will reward you for showing hospitality to others. You're not too young to practise hospitality. You can start now!

Key verse:

*Romans 12:13
Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.*

Prayer

Dear God, help me to be caring to whoever needs help or hope. May my hospitality bring joy and smile to them. Amen.





27

JULY
2020

2 KINGS 11

TAKE A STEP OF FAITH

When Ahaziah, the king of Judah, died, his mother Athaliah killed all the royal heirs out of her ambition to reign as a queen. However, Athaliah missed out someone, her one-year-old grandson named Joash. He was saved, hidden in the temple of God and taken care secretly by a priest named Jehoiada.

Jehoiada was a man of God and wanted Joash to be protected and safe, although he knew that should Athaliah find out about it, he would be killed. Jehoiada took a big step of faith, knowing that it was what God wanted him to do. He stood up for God's way. Six years later, Jehoiada's effort and courage really paid off. Joash finally reigned as the king of Judah at the age of 7.

In life, there are times when you need to be brave and take a step of faith. If you decide to just stay in your comfort zone without doing what God calls you to do, you might lose the chance of witnessing God's wonderful work.

When God calls you to take a step of faith, you can trust Him. Be courageous. Remember, He is in control.

Key verse:

*1 Thessalonians
5:24*

*The One who
calls you will do
that for you. You
can trust Him.*

Prayer

*Dear God, give
me courage and
faith to follow
Your calling in my
life. I want to go
where You ask me
to go and I will do
what You ask me
to do. Amen.*





28
JULY 2020

2 KINGS 12:2-16

HOUSE OF GOD

Although king Joash was an orphan, he was so blessed with a wise man, Jehoiada, as the priest who gave him instructions. Just like Jehoiada, Joash loved God and followed all His commandments. One day he noticed that the temple of God needed to be repaired. He wanted to make it beautiful like Solomon did.

Then, people began to bring their offering of money to the temple. They were so glad to be able to contribute for the repair of God's temple.

King Joash and his people understood the importance of looking after the house of God. We have to keep the house of God clean because this is where God meets with His people, where people praise and worship God and listen to His words. The house of God is a holy place.

Let's keep our church clean and respectable so that all of us can come and worship God with so much joy.

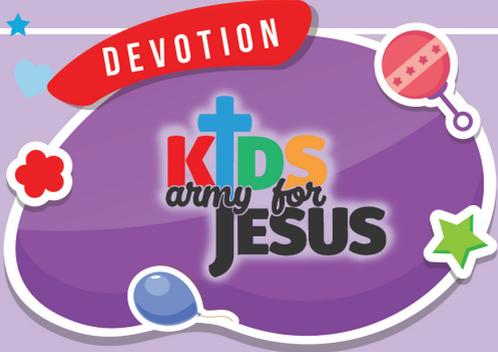
Key verse:

*Psalm 69:9a
My strong love
for Your temple
completely
controls me.*

Prayer

*Dear God, help
me to learn to
take care of my
church because
it is Your holy
house where You
dwell. Amen.*





29
JULY 2020

2 KINGS 13:14-19

WHOLE-HEARTED FAITH

Jehoash, king of Israel, visited Elisha. Elisha knew that the king was about to face the Syrians. Elisha asked him to take a bow and some arrows, face the east window and shoot his arrows towards the east, where the location of Syria was. The arrows represented Israel's victory over Syria.

Once done, Elisha asked him to take the arrows again and hit them to the ground. He hit for 3 times only and it made Elisha angry. Elisha said Jehoash should have hit for 5 or 6 times so that he would strike the Syrians for 5 or 6 times and destroy them.

Due to this, King Jehoash would only manage to strike Syria for 3 times. It demonstrated that Jehoash had half-hearted faith in God. Had he used this opportunity to practise a whole-hearted faith, he would have conquered Syria completely.

Just like to Jehoash, God also gives you many arrows of help when problems arise. Through the Holy Spirit and His word, God will guide you on how to have a powerful prayer. Don't just pray three times and stop. Keep praying with a whole-hearted faith till you get a complete victory over your problems.

Key verse:

*1 Corinthians 2:5
I did this so that your faith would be in God's power, not in the wisdom of a man.*

Prayer

Dear God, give me faith to believe in You wholeheartedly and have zero doubt in Your power. Amen.





30
JULY 2020

2 KINGS 16:7-18

TO IMPRESS GOD

Ahaz the king of Judah asked for help from the King of Assyria to save him from the King of Aram and the King of Israel. He took the gold and silver from the temple of God and gave it to the Assyrian King as a present. The king of Assyria helped King Ahaz win the battle.

When Ahaz went to see the Assyrian king, he saw the altar of the Assyrian temple and he liked it. He instructed Urijah the priest to make a similar altar and then he burned offerings on it.

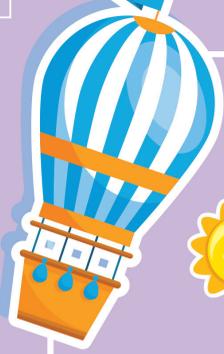
King Ahaz would rather come to the king of Assyria than to God, the King of kings. He tried to please the king of Assyria whom he felt indebted to for helping him win the battle.

There are many people who like to impress certain people more than they want to impress God. They even forsake God in order to please those people. Do live a life that impresses your Creator. It is better to have God's approval than the whole world's applaud.

Key verse:
Galatians 1:10a
 Do you think I am trying to make people accept me? No! God is the One I am trying to please.

Prayer
Dear God, forgive me when I at times choose to follow the world instead of You. Help me to live a life that impresses You. Amen.





31

JULY
2020

2 KINGS 19:14-19

HEZEKIAH'S PRAYER

Hezekiah became the king of Judah. He was different from his father, Ahaz. Hezekiah loved God and removed all the false idols.

One day, Sennacherib, the king of Assyria sent a message to Hezekiah. The message said that he would destroy Judah. The Assyrian king also mockingly said that God would not be able to help and if they wanted to be saved, they had to surrender to him. Sennacherib was insulting God.

Hezekiah was scared and his first reaction was to pray to God. God was on Hezekiah's mind and thoughts. He began his prayer by acknowledging God's greatness and majesty. Then he continued to ask for God's help with a humble heart. The prayer was ended with his desire that God's name be known to all the kingdoms of the earth.

When praying, do not only focus on God's help to solve your problem. Just like Hezekiah, start your prayer by acknowledging His awesomeness and end it with a sincere desire that God's name be glorified. God is bigger than all of your problems.

Key verse:

*2 Kings 19:15b
Only You are
God of all the
kingdoms of the
earth. You made
the heavens and
the earth.*

Prayer

*Dear God, You
are bigger than
my problems and
Your promises are
stronger than my
worries. I praise
You for who You
are. Amen.*





01
AUG 2020

2 KINGS 23:1-3 & 21-25

READ THE BIBLE

Josiah reigned as the king of Judah. Just like his great grandfather, Hezekiah, he did what was right in God's eyes. He had the heart to repair the temple of God. During the repair, Hilkiah the high priest found something. It was the Book of the Law given by Moses many years before about God's commands and laws.

Because of this, Josiah made a covenant with God that he would walk in God's ways with all his heart and would perform all the things that were written in this book. Not only did he influence his people to be faithful to God, he also kept the Passover and instructed all the priests to do everything exactly like what was said in the Book of the Law.

Josiah understood how valuable God's word was. Unlike during those days, everyone can now easily access their Bible on their phone, anytime and anywhere. Let's have the habit of reading the Bible and meditating on God's word every single day. When you fill your heart and mind with God's word, there will be no space for evil.

Key verse:
*Proverbs 30:5
Every word of
God can be
trusted.*

Prayer
*Dear God, thank
You for the
freedom that I
have that I can
read Your word
anytime and
anywhere. Give
me a heart to
always hunger
and thirst for
Your words every
day. Amen.*

