

## INTRODUCTION

Jehoram (also called Joram) was the king of Israel's northern kingdom. He was the son of Ahab and Jezebel. For seven years there was a severe famine in the land. The Syrians (Arameans) were bent on conquering the northern kingdom, and laid siege to the city of Samaria (the capital of the northern kingdom). The famine and siege were so severe that people were eating their children (2 Kings 6:26-30). The situation was desperate. Yet salvation was there...but the city didn't know it until four lepers decided to share their story. Salvation is here in our city...in these anxious times, how can you leverage your testimony for the glory of God?

## SCRIPTURE

*<sup>3</sup>Now there were four men with leprosy at the entrance of the city gate. They said to each other, "Why stay here until we die? <sup>4</sup>If we say, 'We'll go into the city'—the famine is there, and we will die. And if we stay here, we will die. So let's go over to the camp of the Arameans and surrender. If they spare us, we live; if they kill us, then we die." <sup>5</sup>At dusk they got up and went to the camp of the Arameans. When they reached the edge of the camp, no one was there, <sup>6</sup>for the Lord had caused the Arameans to hear the sound of chariots and horses and a great army, so that they said to one another, "Look, the king of Israel has hired the Hittite and Egyptian kings to attack us!" <sup>7</sup>So they got up and fled in the dusk and abandoned their tents and their horses and donkeys. They left the camp as it was and ran for their lives. <sup>8</sup>The men who had leprosy reached the edge of the camp, entered one of the tents and ate and drank. Then they took silver, gold and clothes, and went off and hid them. They returned and entered another tent and took some things from it and hid them also. <sup>9</sup>Then they said to each other, "What we're doing is not right. This is a day of good news and we are keeping it to ourselves. If we wait until daylight, punishment will overtake us. Let's go at once and report this to the royal palace."*

2 Kings 7:3-9

## GROUP QUESTIONS

1. What would your autobiography be titled?
2. Read 2 Kings 7:3-9. Why were the lepers outside the city (see Leviticus 13:46 and Numbers 5:1-3)?
3. What did the lepers decide to do? Have you ever been so desperate (spiritually or physically) that you knew you had to do something? What did you do?
4. When the lepers went to the camp, no one was there. God did a miraculous thing by causing the army to flee in the middle of the night. What was the response of the lepers? Are you surprised by this response? Why or why not?

### *Study Questions for Community Groups*

5. Read Ephesians 2:1-9. What parallels do you see between Israel's situation in 2 Kings 7 and your situation before knowing Christ? Between God's salvation for Israel and your redemption?
6. How would you answer Aaron's question from the sermon: "Do you ever find yourself hoarding certain things or certain gifts that God has given to you?"
7. The lepers eventually realized that they needed to share their story (2 Kings 7:9). In light of all that we have been given by God, why do we fail to tell our story?

### **APPLICATION**

KNOW your story and SHARE your story.

1 Peter 3:15 says to "*Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect....*"

1. If you haven't done so already, write out your testimony of how you came to know Christ. Divide your story into three parts: your life before Christ, how you met Him, and your life after receiving Christ. If you need help, visit [https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/223026\\_14b0abd838f145d8948c20725e5c1c27.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/223026_14b0abd838f145d8948c20725e5c1c27.pdf) for info on how to write your story.
2. Praying for an opportunity to share your story, and be bold to share your story when God answers your prayer.

### **FOR FURTHER STUDY**

1. Read John 4:1-42. It was rare for a Rabbi to talk with a woman, let alone a Samaritan woman. What does this tell you about Jesus?
2. What do you think Jesus meant by "*living water*" (see also Isaiah 44:3-4; John 7:37-39)?
3. What do you learn about the woman's life?
4. Once the woman started to understand who Jesus was, what did she do? What was the result? (See John 4:28-30, 39-42).
5. The first thing the woman did after meeting Jesus was to tell everyone about Him. Make a list of the people in your circle who don't know Christ, and ask God to give you the opportunity to share your story with them.