

ST PAUL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH



THE STORY

OUR JOURNEY TO THE HEART OF GOD'S STORY

SUNDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER 2019



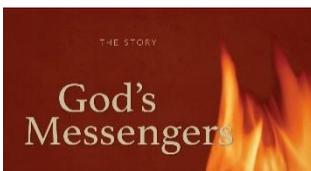
A Key Thought:

God is faithful in persistent in seeking after people's hearts. It is humans who play "hard to get".

GOD'S MESSENGERS (Chapter 15 – Part Two)

Elijah's successor as God's prophet to Israel was Elisha. When the Aramean king sent his troops to capture this man of God, Elisha prayed. He asked God to open his servant's eyes so he could see the angels who were standing guard around them, and to blind the Arameans. The prophet then led his captives to Samaria where he asked the king of Israel to prepare a feast of friendship in lieu of execution. This unconventional act of grace established peace between Israel and Aram. God's holiness demands judgment against rebellious people, but his redemptive love always provides a way of escape. Whether it's through a mountaintop showdown or a vision of guardian angels, God is always telling his "Upper Story" of redemption and compassion through his messengers.

Read today's Bible passage (1 Kings 6:8-23) on pages 211-212 of the *Story* book.



Contact **Dennis Clark** on **0438 895 056** with enquiries or if you wish to join a group

CHAPTER 15



THE STORY

God's Messengers

Read

Reflect

Relate to God and others

Have you ever had the experience of seeing one thing, while another person viewing the same material saw something completely different? We don't always see clearly or fully what is right in front of us. And how much harder again to see the unseen! In our Bible story for today, Elisha was surrounded by a large Aramean force, but he was not at all concerned. He was aware of an unseen and still larger divine defence force, and he asked God to help his servant see it too. In 2 Corinthians 4, the apostle Paul writes, "we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." It is a very human thing to become anxious and fearful on the basis of what our senses tell us. However, beyond all that we may experience in this world, lies the spiritual reality of God's presence, power and promises. Each day, our Lord invites us to live with eyes of faith – secure and confident that he is bigger and stronger than any challenge we face, and is always closer than we feel.

READ pages 211-217 of *The Story*.

REFLECT on these questions:



Can you remember a time when you felt "fully surrounded" by threats and challenges? Was your response more like that of Elisha or that of his servant?



Elisha's attackers were captured, but rather than being punished they were blessed with a great feast. What does this say to you about God and God's ways?

RELATE – As Christians we are called to help one another recognize the presence and promises of God. Make an effort this week to encourage someone who may be struggling to "see" that God is with them.



FAITH ACTS IN THE HOME

8 – 14 SEPTEMBER 2019

This week's theme:

God is our unseen helper and protector.

*Every night in
every home ...*



SHARE

highs and lows



READ

a Bible verse or
story



TALK

about how the Bible
might relate to your
highs and lows



PRAY

for one another's
highs and lows



BLESS

one another

DAILY BIBLE VERSES

Sunday — 2 Kings 6:16

Elisha said, "Don't be afraid. The army that fights for us is larger than the one against us."

Monday — Psalm 34:7

The angel of the Lord camps around those who fear God, and he saves them.

Tuesday — Psalm 125:2

Just as Jerusalem is protected by mountains on every side, the Lord protects his people by holding them in his arms now and forever.

Wednesday — Exodus 14:14

"You only need to remain calm; the Lord will fight for you."

Thursday — 2 Chronicles 32:8

"The Lord our God fights on our side. Our enemies must rely on human power alone."

Friday — 2 Corinthians 4:18

We set our eyes not on what we see but on what we cannot see. What we see will last only a short time, but what we cannot see will last forever.

Saturday — 2 Corinthians 5:7

We live by what we believe, not by what we can see.

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- Have you ever felt surrounded by challenges or threats? What made you feel that way?
 - Elisha's servant was worried about the army that surrounded Dothan, but Elisha wasn't. What was the difference?
 - Elisha said, "*the army that fights for us is larger than the one that is against us.*" In what ways does trusting in God's power give us peace?



*Mealttime
Prayer*

**FOR THIS FOOD AND
JOY RENEWED, WE
PRAISE YOUR NAME,
O GOD!**

A BLESSING TO SHARE

***May you see and know that God is
with you, in every place and in
everything. Amen.***

