



Connect

In the sermon, we talked about "middle" moments that nobody enjoys, the middle seat on a plane, the middle of a renovation, being up in the middle of the night. What's a "middle" moment from your own life (big or small) that you'd rather skip?

Review

Take a couple of minutes to review some of the main ideas from the sermon:

1. **In the middle of the mess, God is still at work.** Even when the bigger picture looks hopeless, God is still actively working behind the scenes to care for His people and accomplish His purposes. Just as God worked through Elisha during Israel's national decline, He continues to work in both broken systems and individual lives today.
2. **The middle is not the end; it's the middle.** The Shunammite woman's grief seemed like the end of her story, but God wasn't finished writing it. Because Jesus' death was followed by resurrection, Christians can face life's difficult "middle" moments with confidence that God has already secured the final outcome.

Read 2 Kings 4:8-37

Make Observations: After reading the passage out loud together, give your group a few minutes to make observations on their own. Then go around the group and share the things you observed and discuss them.

Discuss

1. Who do you most relate to in this story — the mom, Elisha, Gehazi, the dad, or the son? Explain your answer.
2. Did you learn anything new from the Bible Project video we watched during the sermon? If so, what?

3. The sermon pointed out that 1 and 2 Kings were written as "history with a purpose," not just a list of facts. Every king gets summarized with basically the same line: "the rest of what he did is written elsewhere." Pastor Eric explained why the author chose to spend time on Elisha's interesting, but seemingly insignificant miracles, instead of more details about the kings. What's that reason and why does it matter?
4. In verse 28, the woman says to Elisha, "Did I ask you for a son, my lord? Didn't I tell you, 'Don't raise my hopes'?" She sounds hurt, maybe even a little angry. Have you ever felt like being honest or hopeful actually opened you up to more pain? How did you handle that?
5. The sermon said Israel's national story was heading toward exile, and that this really happened; it wasn't just a scare. Jerusalem really fell. Why do you think it matters that the Bible doesn't skip over or soften the hard, true parts of Israel's story?

Apply

Break up into smaller groups of three, and respond to either of these questions:

- Is there a "middle" you're in right now, big or small, where it's been hard to believe there's more of the story left to come? What would it look like this week to hold onto hope in that middle, even before you can see how it resolves?
- Who in your life right now might be in the middle of their own hard story, someone who could use a reminder this week that their middle isn't the end? What's one specific way you could encourage them?

Pray

Go to the church's prayer wall (in app or ccclife.org/prayer). These requests are people currently in "the middle" of something. Have each person pray for one request on the wall. If you're in the "middle" of something that you need prayer for, consider posting your prayer request on the wall.