



LESSON 3 // THE MIRACLE OF HOPE

Big Idea: One of the ways the Lord works miraculously in our lives is by rekindling and restoring hope when all hope seems lost.

God understands the hidden pain we go through when our hopes are shattered. The Shunammite woman in 2 Kings 4:8-37 experienced this in the sudden death of her only son. But as she faithfully followed the Lord, He renewed her hope with a miracle—and He will do this for you! You can be sure that God will restore what the devil has stolen and rekindle hopes that are consistent with His plan for your life, as you pursue Him and believe His promises.

2 Kings 4:32-37 (NIV) *When Elisha reached the house, there was the boy lying dead on his couch.*

³³ He went in, shut the door on the two of them and prayed to the Lord. ³⁴ Then he got on the bed and lay on the boy, mouth to mouth, eyes to eyes, hands to hands. As he stretched himself out on him, the boy's body grew warm. ³⁵ Elisha turned away and walked back and forth in the room and then got on the bed and stretched out on him once more. The boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes. ³⁶ Elisha summoned Gehazi and said, "Call the Shunammite." And he did. When she came, he said, "Take your son." ³⁷ She came in, fell at his feet and bowed to the ground. Then she took her son and went out."

Start Talking:

- What fills you with hope during hard times?
- How would you answer someone if they asked: Why should I be hopeful considering what's going on in the world?

Start Thinking:

- God can supernaturally restore hope in us when all hope has seemingly been lost. What part do we play in having our hope restored?
- **Read Hebrews 11:6.** At the end of this verse we read "...that he rewards those who earnestly seek him." Are we able to earn God's rewards? Why? What do you think are some of His rewards?
- In 2 Kings 4, we learn that the Shunammite woman had likely faced many disappointments in her life and as a result, she had given up hope. How do you typically handle disappointment? Why? What are some ways that we as believers should respond when facing disappointments?
- **Read Isaiah 40:31 & Romans 15:13.** The Bible speaks of hope as an anticipation of good and as a force that fuels our faith. What are some signs that someone is full of hope?

Start Praying:

Read Proverbs 13:12. Take a few moments and ask group members to share (if they are comfortable) any past or recent disappointments that have resulted in a feeling of hopelessness. Pray together with your group and together ask for the hope that God offers to fill hearts and lives in your group.

Start Doing:

- Make a decision to call one person that may be discouraged or struggling with hopelessness. Encourage and pray for that individual.
- Attend church online this coming weekend - <https://church-redeemer.churchonline.org>. If possible host a watch party over Facebook and be part of service with your group.