

Brave

WEEK 4 • GROUP GUIDE • MESSAGE BY JESSIE DAVIS

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer this question:

Out of all of the holidays that happen each year, which one is your favorite and why?

SHARE

Welcome to the teaching series called “Brave.”

We are going to take a serious look at what biblical and boundless bravery looks like. All of us face challenges. Some feel small and others feel insurmountable. Each one of us needs strength and courage to be able to face those head on.

In this series, we are going to look at some of the bravest exploits that we find in the scriptures, and what makes this series so unique is that we will look at the brave exploits of women in the Bible and what we all can learn from them.

This week we will be looking at the life of a Shunammite woman who was regarded as a brave woman who needed to deal with a broken dream. We all have dreams. Some of them are selfish, but some of them are God-given dreams that have been placed in our hearts to pursue. What do we do with those dreams and how do you approach God with dreams that seem scary to pursue? In this story, Elisha desires to help the Shunammite woman who has been a great help to him. She is the type who asks no favors from people. She is strong, but beneath the surface, God is going to stir up a dream that has been painful for the woman to believe.

Read 2 Kings 4:8-16

The woman makes it apparent that she doesn't need any favors or help. Do you know people like this?

Why do you think she is so afraid to have hope in what Elisha is saying to her?

How do you personally deal with disappointment in your life?

GROW

The woman becomes pregnant, just as Elisha said she would. God steps in and answers a prayer. God enters the void in her life and moves unexpectedly and the woman now has a son. Her fears and disappointment have turned into actual answers to unspoken prayers.

Then as quickly as the miracle came, life happened and what was once joy turns into trial. Many of us have had times where we have seen God come through and saw that his word is indeed true. But what do you do when you feel that your faith is being tested in difficult circumstances? As Christ followers, how do we respond to trials in life?

Let's read 2 Kings 4:17-26

The woman goes directly to the man of God after the boy dies. Why do you think this is important in the story?

Why do you think she didn't tell anyone what happened to the boy?

Why do you think the woman said, "Everything is all right, " when clearly it was not all right?

MOVE

The woman goes directly to speak with Elisha and no one else. She wastes no time in going right back to God with her disappointment and pain. She clearly did not ask for God to get involved in her dreams, but he did and met her in the most inner place of pain and did a miracle.

That hope has now turned into more disappointment and she brings it right back to God. This is a woman on a mission.

Read 2 Kings 4:27-37

Do you feel that you give yourself enough room to be boldly honest with God about your disappointment in life?

How do you see this woman's faith in action during her darkest hour?

How does Elisha respond to her brokenness?

What stands out to you most about this story?

PRAY

As a group, spend some time praying for each other and the struggles that we all face. If you are in a co-ed group, consider breaking up into men and women's groups to talk more freely.

TO GO

Jeremiah 32:40-41

I will make an everlasting covenant with them: I will never stop doing good to them... I will rejoice in doing them good and will assuredly plant them in this land with all my heart and soul.