

A Mother's Journey Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. If you could change one thing about the place you live, what would it be?
2. When you're coming up with a plan, do you like to figure it out yourself or talk through it with other people?

Read the following passage: 2 Kings 4:8-37.

In the midst of a tumultuous time in Israel, the Shunammite woman built a room on the top of her house for the prophet Elisha. Her actions provide a powerful example of what can happen when we make space in our lives to engage with God.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. The Shunammite woman is a powerful picture of what many people in our culture have experienced. In some regards, she is really prospering: She is wealthy, she has a nice home, she is married, and she has access to an influential leader. On the other hand, she is lacking what her peers most valued: a child. In what ways do you feel that you have prospered and in what ways do you feel like you are missing out or are navigating hardship? How have each of these realities impacted your life (both in the past and in the present)?
2. How have you built space for private devotion in your life? More concretely, do you read the Bible and pray daily? Explain.
3. The Shunammite woman's response to Elisha's message that she would have a son indicates that her childlessness had been a point of great pain. Past disappointments are often an impediment to present hope. What can we do to navigate our disappointments and live from a posture of hope? Would you consider yourself a hopeful person? Explain. Are there any areas of your life in which you're currently finding it difficult to have hope?
4. What are some unhealthy places we or others might go with our pain? What are some healthy ways to process our pain? Are there any passages in the Scriptures that you find particularly relevant?
5. How do we know when it is time to lay a dream or a relationship to rest and when it is time to persevere and fight for new life?
6. What are some ways in which Jesus is a fulfillment of Old Testament prophetic forerunners like Moses, Elijah, and Elisha?

7. How can you grow in devotion and hope this week?

Pray