

AHAZIAH'S INQUIRY

LESSON 1

2 KINGS 1

Opening Time:

Good thing about your week

Would you rather be in a pillow fight or a water balloon fight?

Prayer Requests

Music:

Give Us Clean Hands (Charlie Hall)

God Makes Messy Things Beautiful (Slugs & Bugs)

He is Faithful (Seeds Family Worship)

Review: (if you have just finished, "Wisdom and Grace")

- What did Ahab want that he couldn't have? (a vineyard belonging to someone else)
- What did Jezebel do to get Ahab that vineyard? (Had the owner – Naboth – killed)
- What punishment did God give for this sin? (The dynasty would end with Ahab and Ahab and Jezebel's bodies would be eaten by dogs)

Opening Thought:

What does it mean to be proud? Is there a good kind of proud and a bad kind?

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Lesson:

After Ahab had died, his son Ahaziah become king in his place. At some point during his reign, Ahaziah fell through a window. The window had a fence or railing of some sort, and he was leaning on it. It broke and he fell out the window and was pretty severely injured.

He was hurt badly enough that he didn't know if he was going to recover. So he sent some of his servants to go ask a false god whether or not he was going to survive this injury.

God told Elijah to go meet the servants going to ask the false god and told Elijah to say, "Doesn't Israel have a god that you could have asked? Because you did not ask the One True God, you are not going to recover. You will die of your injuries.

The servants didn't know who Elijah was, but when they went back to Ahaziah and told him that a hairy man with a leather belt said he was going to die, Ahaziah immediately knew that it was Elijah. He was angry so he sent an army captain with 50 soldiers to go get Elijah and bring him to the palace.

The captain and the 50 men reached Elijah and ordered him to come with them. Elijah said, If I am a man of God, let fire fall from heaven and consume these men. And just as he said, fire came down from heaven and burned up the men.

Ahaziah sent another captain and fifty men, and the same thing happened. When they demanded Elijah go with them, he called down fire on their heads. Ahaziah sent a third group and this time, the captain fell on his knees and begged Elijah to spare their lives. He respected Elijah's authority as a prophet and asked Elijah to please come to see the king.

Critical Thinking Question: What do you think was different in the tone of voice this captain used than the others? How can the way you say things impact the meaning of what you say?

Elijah told Ahaziah exactly what he had told the servants before. Because you did not ask the One True God but went and asked a false god instead, you will not recover from your injury.

Just as Elijah said, Ahaziah died soon after because of his injuries.

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Object Lesson:

Bring in a shallow bowl, water, pepper, and liquid soap.

Fill the bowl with water, sprinkle pepper over the surface of the water. Individually let each child get some soap on their finger and dip it in the water. The pepper will repel away from the soap, creating a cool effect.

Closing Thought:

Do you know what Ahaziah and the armies that came to see Elijah had in common? They were both prideful. They were proud. Ahaziah didn't think he needed help from God and decided to ask someone who couldn't help – because he was too proud to ask the only one who really knew the answers.

The army captains who came to Elijah were proud too. They came with all their military might thinking that Elijah would easily surrender – after all, there were 50 of them. They didn't respect God and the power that Elijah had because of God.

The Bible says that God resists the proud – just like the pepper resisted the soap. God doesn't want anything to do with our prideful hearts.

We're going to be talking about pride a lot in the coming weeks. There were a lot of prideful people in the Bible, and we today can be awfully prideful too. But God hates pride. He hates it when we think we don't need him – but we do need him don't we?

Memory Verse:

James 4:6b God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.