

Lesson 4 — HOW TO PRAY FOR A SICK CHILD — Selected passages from 2 Samuel and 2 Kings 4

1. Read 2 Samuel 12:13-25 and answer the following questions. (a) Whose child is sick in this story and why? (b) What sin had David committed? Skim chapter 11. (c) How long did David pray, and how would you characterize his praying? (d) After the child died, what things did David do?
2. Read 2 Kings 4:18-37. (a) Whose child is sick in this story? (Skim verses 8-17, especially noting verse 14. (b) What happens to the child? (c) Who does the woman call upon for help? (d) Why do you think Gehazi could not raise him? The answer might be found in 5:1-26. (e) Who prayed for the raising of this child? (f) Did God answer his prayer? (g) What verses in this story prove the woman had immense faith?
3. As you read over both of these stories, answer the following questions. (a) What was the difference in the response of each parent to the death of their child? (b) What similarities are there between David's and Elisha's prayer? (c) Write down any observations you see as you compare and contrast these two stories.
4. Jot down any verses that you can recall in which praying in faith is the key element. (Example: Matthew 17:20) (b) How can you use these verses in your own life and the lives of others? (c) How would you counsel someone who says they have faith to believe that God will answer their prayers, yet some of their prayers are not answered?
5. (a) What do you do (or what did you do) when your children are (were) sick? (b) When you or your child are sick, do you examine yourself to see if the sickness is a result of sin?
6. (a) How would you encourage someone who has lost a child? (b) How would you help them specifically in seeing the goodness of God in their tragedy?
7. Do you know anyone who is sick? How do you think the Lord would have you pray for them? Write your prayer request and pray!