



STUDY GUIDE

Dec 17



Hosting a *Christmas Party* in Your Home

2 KINGS 4:8-37

HOSTING A CHRISTMAS PARTY IN YOUR HOME

A STUDY

on 2 King 4:8-37

December 17

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Written by TJ Johnson

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Hosting a Christmas Party in Your Home

2 Kings 4:8-37

Elisha and the Shunammite Woman

8 One day Elisha went on to Shunem, where a wealthy woman lived, who urged him to eat some food. So whenever he passed that way, he would turn in there to eat food. 9 And she said to her husband, "Behold now, I know that this is a holy man of God who is continually passing our way. 10 Let us make a small room on the roof with walls and put there for him a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp, so that whenever he comes to us, he can go in there."

11 One day he came there, and he turned into the chamber and rested there. 12 And he said to Gehazi his servant, "Call this Shunammite." When he had called her, she stood before him. 13 And he said to him, "Say now to her, 'See, you have taken all this trouble for us; what is to be done for you? Would you have a word spoken on your behalf to the king or to the commander of the army?'" She answered, "I dwell among my own people." 14 And he said, "What then is to be done for her?" Gehazi answered, "Well, she has no son, and her husband is old." 15 He said, "Call her." And when he had called her, she stood in the doorway. 16 And he said, "At this season, about this time next year, you shall embrace a son." And she said, "No, my lord, O man of God; do not lie to your servant." 17 But the woman conceived, and she bore a son about that time the following spring, as Elisha had said to her.

Elisha Raises the Shunammite's Son

18 When the child had grown, he went out one day to his father among the reapers. 19 And he said to his father, "Oh, my head, my head!" The father said to his servant, "Carry him to his mother." 20 And when he had lifted him and brought him to his mother, the child sat on her lap till noon, and then he died. 21 And she went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God and shut the door behind him and went out. 22 Then she called to her husband and said, "Send me one of the servants and one of the donkeys, that I may quickly go to the man of God and come back again." 23 And he said, "Why will you go to him today? It is neither new moon nor Sabbath." She said, "All is well."

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2 Kings 4:8-37

24 Then she saddled the donkey, and she said to her servant, "Urge the animal on; do not slacken the pace for me unless I tell you." 25 So she set out and came to the man of God at Mount Carmel.

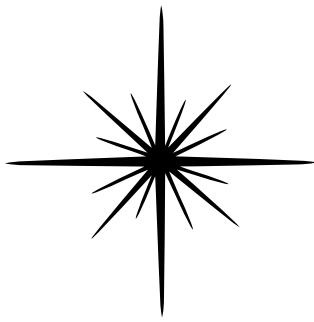
When the man of God saw her coming, he said to Gehazi his servant, "Look, there is the Shunammite. 26 Run at once to meet her and say to her, 'Is all well with you? Is all well with your husband? Is all well with the child?'" And she answered, "All is well." 27 And when she came to the mountain to the man of God, she caught hold of his feet. And Gehazi came to push her away. But the man of God said, "Leave her alone, for she is in bitter distress, and the Lord has hidden it from me and has not told me." 28 Then she said, "Did I ask my lord for a son? Did I not say, 'Do not deceive me?'" 29 He said to Gehazi, "Tie up your garment and take my staff in your hand and go. If you meet anyone, do not greet him, and if anyone greets you, do not reply. And lay my staff on the face of the child." 30 Then the mother of the child said, "As the Lord lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So he arose and followed her. 31 Gehazi went on ahead and laid the staff on the face of the child, but there was no sound or sign of life. Therefore he returned to meet him and told him, "The child has not awakened."

32 When Elisha came into the house, he saw the child lying dead on his bed. 33 So he went in and shut the door behind the two of them and prayed to the Lord. 34 Then he went up and lay on the child, putting his mouth on his mouth, his eyes on his eyes, and his hands on his hands. And as he stretched himself upon him, the flesh of the child became warm. 35 Then he got up again and walked once back and forth in the house, and went up and stretched himself upon him. The child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes. 36 Then he summoned Gehazi and said, "Call this Shunammite." So he called her. And when she came to him, he said, "Pick up your son." 37 She came and fell at his feet, bowing to the ground. Then she picked up her son and went out.

Hosting a Christmas Party in Your Home

The greatest battles for all believers are held in the mind. When challenges come, the first reaction is to worry about what is going to happen. If we are not careful, we can be so worn down with worry and anxiety that we began to live a defeated life instead of looking to Jesus. Do you have anxiety about your life? Do you consistently worry about things you have no control over? Jesus tells us in Matthew 6:25, Therefore I tell you: Don't worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Isn't life more than food and the body more than clothing?" Believers can overcome Anxiety by trusting in Jesus and his provision for our lives.

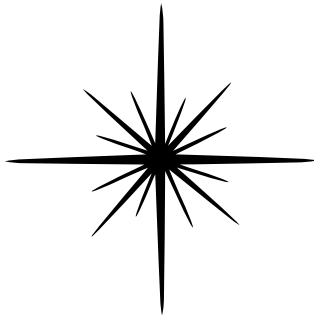
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Let Us Make a Small Room

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

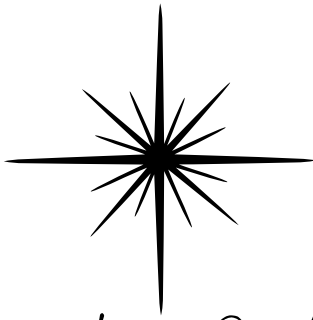
- 1. Give some examples of hospitality in the Old and New Testament.**
- 2. Read 2 Kings 4:8-44. What are some key truths God wants us to learn from this story? (what does it teach us about God, ourselves, sin, our neighbor, etc)**
- 3. What are some truths we learn about hospitality from this story?**
- 4. Consider the opportunities around you this Christmas season. Who can you invite and how can you strategically open your home for hospitality and gospel-sharing?**
- 5. Share with the group a time you were blessed by someone's hospitality.**
- 6. Why do you think food plays such an important role in hospitality?**
- 7. Discuss the Bible's deeper theme of food and (table) fellowship.**
- 8. Discuss practical ways to practice hospitality on a budget.**
- 9. What are some needs that people around you have and how can you help to fill those needs through your hospitality?**



Let Us Make a Small Room

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

10. In what ways was Elisha a foreshadowing of Jesus and how does that impact how we read 2 Kings?
11. Read Matthew 25:35-40. What does Jesus mean by, “you did it for me” and how does this influence how we understand hospitality?
12. Reflect on times when you have experienced the presence of Jesus through hospitality. How has hosting guests enriched your faith?
13. Discuss practical ways to ensure that hospitality not only meets physical needs but also addresses the spiritual needs of guests. How can hosts share the love and message of Jesus intentionally?
14. Which part of hosting do you find most difficult and why?
15. Discuss how God is the ultimate host and we the beneficiaries of His generosity.
16. How can you encourage one another to use this season to share the gospel?



Let Us Make a Small Room

Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

Prayer Requests

Praise Reports