

TALK IT OVER

WHAT DO YOU SEE SERIES | PART 1

26 JULY 2026

START THINKING

1. Read 2 Kings 6:15-17. Elisha and his servant faced the exact same situation but responded completely differently. What made the difference between the "Oh no, what shall we do?" and "Don't be afraid"?
2. Spiritual shortsightedness is often our default; we tend to see life through a natural lens of fear and anxiety. Where do you notice that "Oh no, what shall we do?" instinct most in your own life?
3. The glasses many of us wear are "rimmed with me"; we mostly ask how God fits into our world. Why do you think it is so hard to make God, rather than ourselves, the starting point?
4. Steve used a water bottle analogy (a flat circle from one angle, but a full bottle when you see it properly). Where might you be seeing only the "circle" of your circumstances rather than heaven's fuller view?

START SHARING

1. Elisha could say "don't be afraid" because he could see God's presence all around him. When has knowing God was with you turned panic into peace in a hard season?
2. "Open my eyes, Lord, so that I may see" was the prayer at the heart of the message. In what area of your life do you most need God to open your eyes right now?
3. Steve encouraged us to use prayer to remind ourselves of who God is (all-powerful, eternal, the Potter, the Saviour). Which truth about God do you most easily forget, and most need to remember at the moment?

START PRAYING

1. Praise God for Who He is, high and exalted, all-powerful, eternal, and present with us always, and thank Him that He promises never to leave or forsake us.
2. Pray Steve's prayer over one another: "Open our eyes, Lord, that we may see", and ask God to deliver us from the shortsightedness of selfish living.

START DOING

1. In your personal prayer time this week, focus on praying the attributes of God, e.g. Lord, thank You that You are all-powerful and I am not; that You are eternal; that You are the Potter and I am the clay; that You are the Saviour and I needed saving.
2. Community and service cost time and can be messy, and many of us are content just to attend. Where is God nudging you from attending towards belonging and serving?

NOTES TO LEADERS

1. We celebrated Nation Changers month - thank you to all who have contributed their time, talents and treasures to our Nation Changers projects.
2. Flourish Women's Conference is just around the corner. Don't forget to purchase your tickets

SCRIPTURES

2 KINGS 6:8-23

⁸ Now the king of Aram was at war with Israel.

¹³ 'Go, find out where [Elisha] is,' the king ordered, 'so that I can send men and capture him.' The report came back: 'He is in Dothan.'¹⁴ Then he sent horses and chariots and a strong force there. They went by night and surrounded the city.

¹⁵ When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. 'Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?' the servant asked.

¹⁶ 'Don't be afraid,' the prophet answered. 'Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.'

¹⁷ And Elisha prayed, 'Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see.' Then the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all round Elisha.

ISAIAH 6:1

"...I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple."

HEBREWS 13:4

"... God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.'

START TALKING

1. What stood out to you from Sunday's message? What challenged you or encouraged you?
2. What has God been doing in your world - what can we celebrate?

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SUMMARY OF SUNDAY'S MESSAGE

This Sunday, we started a new three-week series called "What Do You See?", based on 2 Kings 6.

The story is set around 3,000 years ago, when the king of Aram (ancient Syria) was at war with Israel. Every time the Aramean king planned a military move, God revealed it to the prophet Elisha, who warned Israel's king, until the enraged Aramean king discovered that Elisha could report the very words he spoke in his own bedroom. So he sent horses, chariots and a strong force by night to surround the city of Dothan and capture him. When Elisha's servant got up the next morning and saw the army encircling them, he panicked: *"Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?"* Elisha's answer was remarkable: *"Don't be afraid. Those who are with us are more than those who are with them."* Then he prayed, *"Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see,"* and the servant looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha (2 Kings 6:15-17). The supernatural army had been there the whole time. Only one of the two men could see it.

Steve opened with a message focusing on how we move from "Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?" to "Open my eyes, Lord, so that I may see". God wants to move us from our natural, knee-jerk response of fear and anxiety when a crisis hits, to "Open my eyes, Lord, so that I may see." Spiritual sight, the growing ability to see what God is doing, may be the most important thing for any of us, and by default we all drift towards spiritual shortsightedness.

Steve shared three areas where we need clearer sight. Open our eyes, Lord, so that I may see:

1. God Most High

We need to see God Most High more clearly. He is the ultimate reality, the source of all things. But the glasses most of us wear are rimmed with "me": how does God fit into my world, how does His power help me, will He fulfil my dreams? God's answer is that the starting point is not us, but Him. When the prophet Isaiah *"saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne"* (Isaiah 6:1), everything in his life changed, and his message became about God rather than himself. One practical help is prayer, where we deliberately remind ourselves of what we already know but easily forget, e.g. Lord, thank You that You are all-powerful and I am not; that You are eternal; that You are the potter and I am the clay; that You are the Saviour and I needed saving.

2. His presence

This is the centrepiece of the story. Elisha and his servant looked out of the same window and saw two completely different things, and it produced two completely different reactions. As Frederick Langbridge put it, "Two men look out the same prison bars; one sees mud, the other stars." Steve held up a water bottle: from the front it looks like a circle, from the side a rectangle, but seen fully it is a bottle with a lid and water inside. So often our perspective is limited to the flat "circle" of our own circumstances. Open eyes connect us to heaven's vantage point, where God sees it all. God is present with us all the time, and when we can see that, panic gives way to peace, and "Oh no" becomes "Don't be afraid." As He promises, *"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you"* (Hebrews 13:5).

3. The value of community and service

We often view getting involved and serving through that same small circle: I don't have the time, it takes effort, my life is full enough. But if we zoom out to God's view and consider how He designed us to live, Scripture answers clearly: for community and for service. We are like Lego blocks, made with connectors to be joined together; a single block on its own does little, but joined to others it can build something remarkable. And we are made for service, looking beyond ourselves for the good of others. Living only for our own small circle, our comfort and our time, is a toxic way for any person to live. Community and service cost time and can be messy and inconvenient, but that is exactly what we were designed for.

Steve closed as Peter had the week before, by inviting us to place our hands over our eyes and pray: open my eyes to see God Most High, to know that your presence is always with us, and to see the value of community and service. Deliver us, Lord, from the shortsightedness of selfish living, and open our eyes that we may see.