

Dig the Ditch

Connect Group Guide - 3.8.26

Opening Prayer

Icebreaker

Share a time when you had to prepare for something before you could see the results. What did that experience teach you about faith and preparation?

Key Scripture

- 2 Kings 3:9-20

Message Overview

This message explores the story in 2 Kings 3, where three kings face a desperate crisis after marching seven days into battle with no water for their armies or animals. Through the prophet Elisha, God gives an unexpected command: dig ditches throughout the valley even though there are no clouds or sign of rain. The story reveals a powerful truth about faith—God often calls us to prepare before we see the promise fulfilled. Just as a service station prepares for the next day before customers arrive, we must prepare our hearts, ministries, and lives for the blessings God has promised. When the water finally came from an unexpected direction, it showed that God's provision often arrives in ways we never anticipate, but it comes to those who are willing to prepare in faith and obedience.

Key Takeaways

- **Connection Determines Direction** - godly connections position us for blessing and unlock God's instruction.
- **Obedience Happens Before Provision** - digging ditches in the drought, knowing miracles often follow preparation.
- **Build for the Future You Can't See** - so we must seek God's wisdom to prepare for the overflow we're praying for.
- **The Miracle Comes from Unexpected Directions** - often through unexpected sources.
- **The Ditches Save More Than the Present** - Our obedience today prepares us not just for survival, but for tomorrow's victory and breakthrough.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Story

1. What stood out to you most about the story of the three kings in 2 Kings 3?
2. Why do you think Elisha was willing to help despite two of the kings being unfaithful? What does this teach us about God's grace?
3. The kings were told to dig ditches when they were already exhausted and thirsty. How would you have responded to this instruction?

Personal Reflection

4. Pastor Mike said, "Faith doesn't wait for rain. Faith digs ditches in the drought." What "drought" are you currently experiencing, and what "ditches" might God be asking you to dig?
5. Who are you connected to spiritually? How do those connections influence your spiritual direction and growth?
6. What does it look like practically to "prepare for abundance" in your current situation rather than just surviving?
7. Have you ever experienced God providing for you from an unexpected source? Share that story with the group.

Challenging Questions

8. Pastor Mike mentioned that some people "pray for overflow but live with small capacity." In what areas of your life might you be limiting God's blessing by your lack of preparation or obedience?
9. What dreams or visions has God given you that you may have abandoned? What would it look like to "pick up the shovel" again?
10. The message asked, "Why does time change and rain affect our attendance?" More broadly, what obstacles keep you from fully committing to what God has called you to do?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

Choose one or more of these action steps to practice this week:

Option 1: Alignment Check

- Evaluate your closest relationships. Are you connected to people who draw you closer to God?
- If needed, intentionally spend time with a godly mentor or friend this week.

Option 2: Dig a Ditch

- Identify one area where God has been asking you to prepare in faith
- Take one concrete action this week to "dig a ditch" before you see the provision (examples: set up a giving plan, start a Bible reading schedule, prepare space for ministry, reach out to someone you're called to serve)

Option 3: Capacity Expansion

- Ask God for one way you can expand your capacity to receive His blessing
- This might mean: learning a new skill, making time for prayer, organizing your finances, or clearing schedule space for ministry

Option 4: Obedience Before Provision

- Identify one area where you've been waiting to "see results" before obeying God
- Commit to obedience this week regardless of visible outcomes

Leader Notes

- Be sensitive to people who may be carrying deep shame or feeling unworthy
- Emphasize that this is a safe space where everyone has a seat at the table
- Consider having communion together as a group if appropriate
- Follow up during the week with anyone who shared something particularly vulnerable

Prayer Requests & Closing