



## Elisha: Trusting God's Promises (2 Kings 13:14-20) Truth to Power (Part 9)

### THE BIG IDEA

God sometimes gives us signs to assure us of God's promises and to invite us to have faith.

### OPENING

- Describe an object that has special significance in your life.

### DIGGING DEEPER

- Read 2 Kings 13:10-11. How does the Bible describe King Jehoash?<sup>1</sup> Why does it describe him this way?
- What does Jehoash say to Elisha in v. 14? Compare this with 2 Kings 2:12. What do you think this phrase means?
- The arrows in this story serve as "sacramental signs." A sacrament is "*An outward sign instituted by God to convey an inward or spiritual grace.*"<sup>2</sup> Jesus instituted two formal sacraments: Baptism and the Lord's Supper.<sup>3</sup> However, other objects, though they are not formal sacraments, can be used by God as sacramental signs. What is the inward spiritual grace conveyed by the arrows in this story?

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<sup>1</sup>Some translations translate Jehoash's name as Joash.

<sup>2</sup>D. McKim, *The Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms* (Westminster John Knox Press, 2014), p. 276

<sup>3</sup>The Roman Catholic Church and the Anglican Church both have five additional sacraments: Confession, Marriage, Ordination, Anointing of the Sick, and Confirmation.



- How do the following objects convey a spiritual grace?
  - a. The rainbow in Genesis 6:9-14
  - b. Circumcision in Genesis 17:11
  - c. The burning bush in Exodus 3:2-3
  - d. The pillar of fire and cloud Exodus 13:21-22
  - e. The bronze serpent in Numbers 21:6-9

## **PUTTING IT TO WORK**

- Spend time this week preparing your heart for Communion next Sunday. Ask God to ready your soul to be nourished by God's grace and assured of God's promises.
  
- Identify an object that God has used as a sacramental sign in your life. Place that object in a prominent place that you will see each day. Each time you see the object, pray a brief prayer of gratitude to God for that object.

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**