

THE ESSENTIAL NATURE OF TRUST

ELISHA – Trusting God in the Ordinary and the Impossible!

I invite you to walk with me through the Old Testament and discover how God uses the stories of broken men—not perfect ones—to help us learn to trust Him.

These lives aren't just ancient history; they are windows into our own struggles and hopes. Each story leads us closer to Jesus, the one in whom all trust finds its meaning.

Along the way, your “trust muscle” will be stretched and strengthened as we explore what it means to truly follow the One who is trustworthy.

Let's take the journey together.



Series Overview

1. Goal: Strengthen trust in Jesus through Old Testament characters.
2. Theme: Who Do You Trust?
Who Do You Follow?
3. Outcome: Build trust in relationships, make discerning decisions, and deepen your relationship with Jesus.



Elisha: Two Major Trust Lessons

1. DAILY TRUST → Trust God's Presence in the Ordinary. Elisha's ministry shows us that God is not only present in grand miracles but also in the small, ordinary moments of life. He helped a widow multiply her oil to provide for her family. He caused a lost axe head to float — a simple act, yet one that revealed God's concern for even minor losses.

REMEMBER: Trust is strengthened when we recognize God's presence in the ordinary. Elisha teaches us that no concern is too small for God. Trust grows not in the absence of difficulty, but in the awareness that God walks with us in it. "God is in the details — His presence fills both the heavens and the workshop." *2 Kings 4:1–7; 2 Kings 6:1–7.*



ELISHA: Two Major Trust Lessons

2. IMPOSSIBLE → Trust God's Power When You Cannot See the Way Forward. When Elisha's servant panicked at the sight of a massive enemy army, Elisha prayed, "Lord, open his eyes that he may see." The young man's eyes were opened to see the hills full of horses and chariots of fire — God's heavenly army surrounding them.

REMEMBER: Trust begins where sight ends. Elisha teaches us that faith sees beyond fear. God's protection and purpose are often invisible, but they are never absent. "Faith is not believing in spite of the evidence; it is obeying in spite of the fear." 2 *Kings* 6:8–23 – The Aramean Army and the Invisible Hosts



How Elisha Points to Jesus

Elisha's ministry foreshadows Jesus in several ways:

1. **Miracles of compassion:** Elisha multiplied loaves to feed the hungry (2 Kings 4:42–44), just as Jesus fed the multitudes.
2. **Healing power:** Elisha healed Naaman the leper (2 Kings 5), prefiguring Christ's cleansing of both body and soul.
3. **Restoration of life:** Elisha raised the Shunammite's son (2 Kings 4:18–37), pointing toward Christ's resurrection power.
4. **Grace to outsiders:** Naaman, a Gentile, was healed — a foretaste of Jesus' ministry to all nations.
5. Through Elisha, we see a God who steps into our human story to bring **restoration, healing, and hope** — all fulfilled perfectly in Jesus, the true and greater Elisha.



REPAIRING BROKEN TRUST

Step 1 – Acknowledge the Breach → You cannot repair what you won't admit. Be specific about what happened and how trust was damaged. TRUST: Denial delays healing; humility begins restoration.

Step 2 – Own Your Role → Take responsibility for your part—even if it's partial. Avoid blame-shifting or minimizing. TRUST = Proverbs 28:13 —
“Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.”

Step 3 – Understand the Impact → Show empathy for the pain or consequences caused. Listen fully before offering solutions. TRUST = People trust again when they feel seen, heard, and understood.



REPAIRING BROKEN TRUST

Step 4 – Make Amends → Offer a clear, specific plan to repair the harm done. Follow through on your commitments. TRUST = Trust grows when words and actions align.

Step 5 – Rebuild Through Consistency → Trust isn't rebuilt overnight; it's restored one consistent choice at a time. TRUST = Dr. Cloud calls this the “deposit effect”—small actions that slowly refill the trust account.

Step 6 – Establish Healthy Boundaries → Moving forward requires clarity on expectations, responsibilities, and limits. TRUST = Healthy relationships balance grace



Take Action!

Journal Prompts

1. **Trust in the ordinary (2 Kings 4:1–7; 6:1–7).** Where do you need to invite God into something “small” (finances, tools, time, family routines)? What one practical step will you take this week to act in trust, not self-reliance?
2. **Seeing beyond fear (2 Kings 6:8–23).** What “army” feels arrayed against you right now (pressure, temptation, conflict, uncertainty)? How can you “open your eyes” this week—through prayer, Scripture, or brotherly accountability—to remember God’s unseen help?

