

CONTEND:

Praying with open eyes [2 Kings 6:8-17]

1. Be alert to the enemy's schemes (2 Kings 6: 8-10, Ephesians 6:18)

Thanks to Elisha's attentiveness to God's voice, the King of Israel was prepared for enemy attack and the people of God were able to stand their ground. Scripture tells us to pray in the spirit and be alert and persistent in praying for all believers everywhere.

2. There were troops, horses and chariots everywhere (2 Kings 6: 15)

When we feel like we are surrounded by troubles we can turn to God, like the young servant in the story who cried out to Elisha, 'Oh, sir, what will we do now?' Recognise the challenge before you, and look to God for wisdom about how to pray and act when challenges come.

3. 'Don't be afraid!' Elisha told him 'for there are more on our side than on theirs!'... (2 Kings 6:16-17, 1 John 4:4)

Elisha had faith that God was more powerful than the enemy army before him. He himself could see God's angel army and he prayed so that his servant could also see that. Sometimes we need to help one another to see things from a spiritual perspective. Prayer is a tool with the power to change us, our perspective and our situations. The spirit helps us pray and act according to God's will.

DISCUSS

Starter: Since starting the series 'Contend: passionate prayer fuelled by Holy Discontent', have you been inspired to pray more or differently in any way? If so, how?

What changes have you noticed in yourself?

What changes have you seen in the situation you are praying about?

If the answer to the above is 'no' or 'none', why not ask God to stir up in you a holy discontent that fuels prayer?

1. Have you ever tried prayer with fasting? If so, how did it affect your ability to pray?
2. Have you ever tried praying with your eyes open? If so, why? How does praying with your eyes open affect your prayers?
3. Where might it feel like the enemy army is surrounding you, another believer or a bigger situation at the moment? Pray for them or the situation, and ask God to reveal where He is working in that situation. Watch to see what changes occur (inside us as outside of us) and encourage one another with what you notice.

DIGGING DEEPER

The simple lyrics of 'Fight My Battles' by Upperroom is a rhythmic reminder of a simple truth: 'It may look like I'm surrounded but I'm surrounded by You'.

Listen to the song here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kKXSfB-rwGU>

We believe our God-given vision is see: thriving communities springing up, where everyone can belong and find hope in Jesus.

Group Sunday message notes 2026

