CONTEND:

Praying for peace (2 Kings 6: 15-23)

1. **Elisha prays for a creative solution to violence (2 Kings 6:18-20)**

Elisha and his servant are surrounded, they know God's army is there but they still need to work with God. Elisha prays for them to be temporarily blinded, then leads them into Samaria. When we are surrounded and actively pray for peace, God may show us creative solutions. Global conflict resolution starts with becoming a person of peace ourselves, in our immediate situations and resolving quarrels and fights that arise from the 'evil desires at war within us' (James 4: 1)

2. **The enemy is offered hospitality instead of hostility (2 Kings 6: 20-22)**

The King of Israel could have had the Arameans killed but he asked Elisha for advice, who tells him to offer them food and drink then let them go. Where conflict arises, acting in the opposite spirit to the sinful nature by bearing the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5: 17-23) can help diffuse the situation and bring about remarkable fruit. Challenging situations present opportunities to Contend in prayer for peace, which is the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

3. **There is a peaceful resolution (2 Kings 6: 23, Ephesians 6:12)**

'After that the Aramean raiders stayed away from the Land of Israel' A radical reorientation took place without bloodshed. Food and drink helped the Armeans remember their humanity. Even in situations of global conflict we pray remembering that 'we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.' Sometimes we need to reconnect with our own bodies and surroundings, and remember what we are grateful for to shift our perspective.

DISCUSS

Starter: How do you typically react to stress and conflict?
Is there a time where you resolved conflict or handled stress well, leading to a peaceful resolution?

1. Providing a feast for the army instead of killing them was a prophetic enactment of Jesus's instruction to love your enemies and bless those who persecute you. What might loving and blessing your enemy look like in your life? In this nation in 2026? Across the world?
2. The Aramean army were appeased by not only being shown mercy but being given a good meal. Resting in God can help us find peace and resolve conflict (Isaiah 30: 15-16). So why are we sometimes 'our own worst enemy'?

DIGGING DEEPER

Find resources to help you pray for peace and and end to war here:
https://www.24-7prayer.com/resource/pray-for-peace-and-an-end-to-war/

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

Springfield Church