

Through The Bible In One Year

The Adventure of Many Lifetimes

Unpublished Work, December 2005, Laura Gardner.

Theme: Turning Enemies Into Friends

Week 25 Small Group Bible Study & Sunday School Lesson

Open (Sharing our Own Stories & Getting To Know One Another)

1. When was a time that you were lost? 2. How did you eventually find your way to your destination? 3. Did anything good come from this experience?

Going Deeper Into God's Word Together

Read aloud 2 Kings 6.8-22; Psalm 139.1-16; Acts 15.1-13, 19-20.

Kings: 1. How does Elisha demonstrate his faith and love for God? What other ways can believers show their faith? 2. Elisha prayed for the blind to see. How can Christians have their eyes 'opened' more to God's truth and love? 3. Elisha shows great kindness to an enemy and ends the raids on Israel. Do Christians need to do more than that to turn conflict into reconciliation?

Psalm: 1. Why do we need to pray to God if he already has 'searched us and knows us'? 2. What does it mean to a person's life if God had 'laid his hands' on him? 3. Why would Christians ever want to go from God's spirit or flee from his presence?

Acts: 1. The Pharisees wanted the Gentiles to follow certain regulations in order to be followers of Jesus. Is there anything in the church now that might be a barrier to non-believers or those seeking to become believers? 2. How did God show and continues to show that a believer's heart has been purified by faith? What evidence of this can we see in a believer? 3. How were those assembled in Jerusalem able to resolve their conflict? Could this be applied to conflicts in the church today? How?

Reflecting On What God Is Telling Us:

1. When you feel that you have been wronged do you _____ pray for the offending person _____ ask God to help you to forgive _____ seek guidance from other Christians _____ show acts of kindness to the offender _____ remain unforgiving.

2. Why is it sometimes hard to forgive? How do you and others benefit when you do forgive?

Applying/Putting Into Practice What God's Told Us

What is one step you can take this week to turn an 'enemy' (someone causing difficulty in your life) into a friend?