

# Great Things He Has Done

(II Kings 8:4b)

## Session 7 - Bones that Bring Life

### Talkback with Pastor Jenny

- 1) Our hero in this study is Elisha, but what is the real source of resurrection power in this eight century Jewish cemetery? How does that same power manifest itself in a first century Jewish garden (John 19:41)? How does the proclamation that *Christ is Risen* energize you? Identify your worst fears and/or the church's worst enemies: what does it mean to say that because Jesus lives, *you have made an end of them*? (II Kings 13:17b)

### Go Deeper

- 2) A Jewish apocryphal text called Ecclesiasticus (or the Wisdom of Sirach) includes a wonderful tribute to the prophet Elisha. Review this hymn from Ecclesiasticus 48:12-14 -“When Elijah was enveloped in the whirlwind, Elisha was filled with his spirit. He performed twice as many signs, and marvels with every utterance of his mouth.<sup>[a]</sup> Never in his lifetime did he tremble before any ruler, nor could anyone intimidate him at all. Nothing was too hard for him, and when he was dead, his body prophesied. In his life he did wonders, and in death his deeds were marvelous.” Remind yourselves (from our study over the past weeks) of those events where we see *repeatedly* the “resurrection” motif in the Old Testament Elisha cycle.

### Great Things in the Church

- 3) For an interesting Easter tradition often overshadowed in the Church, review Matthew 27:50-53. Recall the resuscitations accomplished by Jesus in life (Matthew 9:25, Luke 7:15, and John 11:44), as well as those in the early Church (Acts 9:40 and Acts 20:10). Jesus commands his disciples: “*Raise the dead!*” (Matthew 10:8). How’s that working for your church today? Where are you using resurrection power to bring life to that which was empty, sunken, or hopeless?

### Get Me a Musician

- 4) Read or sing through hymn #318 (“Christ Is Alive”) in the United Methodist Hymnal. How does this hymn amplify the theme of today’s lesson? Which particular lines or phrases speak to you?

“*While the musician was playing, the power of the Lord came on him*” (II Kings 3:15b)