

The background of the top half of the cover is a dramatic painting. It depicts a path of dry, cracked earth leading from the bottom center towards a bright, glowing light at the horizon. The path is flanked by massive, towering waves of dark blue and green water, which appear to be parted, creating a tunnel-like effect. The sky above the waves is dark and filled with white, misty clouds. The overall mood is one of divine intervention and a journey towards hope.

The waters parted and Elisha went over . . .

# **Great Things He Has Done**

**(II Kings 8:4b)**

## **A Seven Week Bible Study For Lent**

### **Group Leader's Guide**

Curriculum and Project Development by  
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2019

# STUDY MATERIALS

## With this Group Leader's Guide

- Video with seven individual sessions consisting of an introduction, scripture reading, and lesson presentation.
- Study guide worksheets, one per session in easy-to-copy format, to guide participants to a deeper understanding of the scripture by integrating group discussion with personal reflection.

*(These materials may be accessed electronically during Lent 2019 at: [www.epaumc.org/districts/north](http://www.epaumc.org/districts/north) or via DVD by ordering from the North District office)*

## VIDEO STUDY SESSIONS

- **Session 1** (II Kings 4:1-7) - **The Provision of Oil**  
Rev. Karyn Fisher, St. John's UMC of Shamokin
- **Session 2** (II Kings 4:8-37) - **He Revives the Stricken**  
Rev. Sukja Bang, Ackermanville UMC
- **Session 3** (II Kings 4:38-44) - **Give Them Something to Eat**  
Rev. Candy LaBar, Faith UMC of Stroudsburg
- **Session 4** (II Kings 5:1-15a) - **Care for the Stranger**  
Rev. Stew Warner, Salem UMC of Orwigsburg
- **Session 5** (II Kings 6:1-7) - **The Floating Ax Head**  
Rev. Kofi Ashley, Mount Pocono UMC
- **Session 6** (II Kings 6:8-23) - **An Enemy Attack Thwarted**  
Rev. Jim Todd, East Stroudsburg UMC
- **Session 7** (II Kings 13:14-21) - **Bones that Bring Life**  
Rev. Jennifer Freymoyer, Salem UMC of Shoemakersville



**Great Things He Has Done**



# OVERVIEW

***Great Things He Has Done*** is a seven week Lenten Bible Study series, designed to begin the week of Ash Wednesday and conclude in the week following Easter Day. The curriculum has been developed to help Christian disciples grow through the study of the word.

Study participants will journey with Elisha through his conflicted, compromised ninth century BCE world and re-live the “wonders” he delivered. A careful review of the Old Testament reveals that Elisha “ . . . performed a greater number of miracles than any other prophet except Moses.” (Thompson Chain Reference Bible, p. 238) ‘Healings, meal provision, peace-making, restoring life to the dead: the incredible cycle of wonder stories in the early chapters of II Kings invite astonishment, faith, hope, obedience, worship, and service! And in a curious way, they foreshadow the remarkable ministry of Jesus of Nazareth, and the Church which follows Him.

***Great Things He Has Done*** is designed to be conducted in a group setting as an “in-class” study experience, but with no “homework” required of participants. Each week of the study will be taught on video by different Elders from the North District of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church. As group leader, your role will be to facilitate the group sessions using the video presentations and the corresponding worksheets which accompany this Group Leader’s Guide. Participants should bring a Bible to each class; the study makes use of the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV).

Each of the seven sessions will require a minimum of 60 minutes. You may find, however, that your group prefers a slower pace, or to accommodate larger groups, that scheduling a 90 minute block of time better fits your needs.

## SUGGESTED FORMAT

Gathering of the group

Opening prayer

Brief verbal introduction to the session’s topic

Video presentation

Group response and conversation

Divide into smaller groups for worksheet exercises: *Talkback with the Pastor;*

*Go Deeper, Great Things in the Church and Get Me a Musician*

Reassemble for full group discussion

Announcements

Closing prayer

# Great Things He Has Done

(II Kings 8:4b)

## Hymn Notes

**# 130 “God Will Take Care of You”** - This Hymn was written by Civilla D. Martin on a Sunday afternoon in 1904 while she was confined to a sickbed. Her Husband, W. Stillman Martin, when he returned from a preaching assignment, sat down at a pump organ and composed the tune appropriately called MARTIN. A hymn of comfort, it is useful in a variety of settings, including groups of older adults and others bearing burdens of illness and hardship.

**#458 “Dear Lord, for All in Pain”** - This is one of the few hymns about a universal affliction, pain. There are three parts to the prayer: first, that God will remove the cause of our pain; second, that those with medical skill can give relief; third, that if pain must be endured we may have a peaceful end. The simple tune can be learned readily by any group, and the hymn is particularly useful for healing services.

**#427 “Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life”** - Frank Mason North wrote this standard hymn about the Christian’s responsibility to the city. The city was New York in 1905. He was influenced by Mt. 22:9 “Go therefore to the thoroughfares, and invite to the marriage feast as many as you can find.” The text enumerates the many needs of people in an urban setting and tells us that Jesus never recoiled from people in desperate need, but showed compassion. The last two stanzas are one thought: The city needs the presence of Jesus until all people on earth learn Christ’s ways of service and the city of God comes upon the earth.

**#121 “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”** - Faber’s text depicts the vastness of God’s mercy, reflecting the influence of other Evangelical writers such as Cowper, Newton, and the Wesleys. In describing God, the poet uses everyday words, such as *mercy*, *kindness*, *justice*, *welcome*, and *healing*, and equates God’s mercy to the wideness of the sea. Feel the melody in the stately two counts per measure, but do not rush the graceful eighth notes. The final stanza may be sung softly as a prayer of both confession and calm assurance.

**#132 “All My Hope is Firmly Grounded”** - This is a hymn of praise to the Creator and Sustainer of all creation: God, never-failing, constantly good, just, and caring. Written by Joachim Neander, a seventeenth-century pietistic German pastor and hymn writer, it appears here in a new translation by Fred Pratt Green, set to a beautiful tune by the twentieth-century British composer Herbert Howells. The final reference to “feeding” makes the hymn appropriate for Holy Communion as well as for general use.

**#620 “One Bread, One Body”** - Drawing upon I Cor. 10:16-17, Gal. 3:28, and I Cor. 12, John B. Foley, a Roman Catholic Jesuit priest, pictures in this Communion text our oneness in Christ. Ecumenical in its appeal, the text celebrates the diversity of believers who are “one body in this one Lord.” Foley’s tune ONE BREAD, ONE BODY adds to the beauty of the text with its gentle melody which may be accompanied with piano, organ, guitar or auto harp and adding an instrument to highlight the melody.

**#318 “Christ Is Alive!”** - this marvelous Easter text by Brian Wren was written in April 1968 and sung at Easter services - ten days after the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. at the church where Wren was pastor. It reminds us that the Easter event and the Christ who rose are not far away from our lives. Christ is alive; he suffers with us yet lives and comes to us with good news, “with joy, with justice, love and praise.” The tune TRURO adds joy and vigor to the text, together forming a celebrative Easter hymn.