

What are some things that are invisible to you, but you still believe they exist?

How might it be hard for someone to believe in a God whom they cannot see?

How would you communicate the reality of an invisible God to someone who was skeptical?

Read **John 20:24-29**.

What issue did Thomas have?

Why might he have doubted?

What did Jesus do to relieve his doubt?

What did Jesus say about seeing and believing?

Read **Philippians 4:6-7**.

What role should anxiety or worry have in the Christian's life?

What are we to do instead of worrying?

What does the Bible promise in the place of anxiety?

Do "invisible" and "imaginary" mean the same thing?

How are they different?

Do you have friends who believe God is imaginary? How do you help them see that He is real even though He's invisible?

GRACE NOTES

Message: **ELISHA - Trusting the Invisible**

Scripture: 2 Kings 6:8-17

Date: Sunday, October 4, 2015

⁸ *Now the king of Aram was at war with Israel. After conferring with his officers, he said, "I will set up my camp in such and such a place."*

⁹ *The man of God sent word to the king of Israel: "Beware of passing that place, because the Arameans are going down there." ¹⁰ So the king of Israel checked on the place indicated by the man of God. Time and again Elisha warned the king, so that he was on his guard in such places.*

¹¹ *This enraged the king of Aram. He summoned his officers and demanded of them, "Tell me! Which of us is on the side of the king of Israel?"*

¹² *"None of us, my lord the king," said one of his officers, "but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the very words you speak in your bedroom."*

¹³ *"Go, find out where he is," the king ordered, "so I can send men and capture him." The report came back: "He is in Dothan." ¹⁴ Then he sent horses and chariots and a strong force there. They went by night and surrounded the city.*

¹⁵ *When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?" the servant asked.*

¹⁶ *"Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them."*

(continued on back)

17 And Elisha prayed, "Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see." Then the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

Seeing was believing for the servant, but not seeing did not mean that God's presence and power were not there.

"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." (Hebrews 11:1)

BE HONEST WITH GOD AND WITH YOURSELF.

"I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" (Mark 9:24)

QUIT TRYING TO PRETEND YOU'VE GOT IT ALL FIGURED OUT.

REMEMBER GOD'S FAITHFULNESS IN THE PAST.

"...if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself." (2 Timothy 2:13)

ASK GOD TO OPEN YOUR EYES TO SEE WHAT HE'S DOING.

WHEN YOU CAN'T SEE GOD, BE WILLING TO TRUST THAT HE IS STILL THERE.

SERMON STUDY NOTES -

Did you or your child ever have an invisible friend? Describe how that went.

How did you deal with the Tooth Fairy, Easter Bunny, and Santa Clause at your house? Would you do anything differently now?

Thinking back to the message this past Sunday, what most caught your attention, challenged you, encouraged you, caused you to think or act differently, or left you confused?

Re-read **2 Kings 6:8-17.**

Did you notice anything in the passage today that you didn't see previously?

What was the dilemma for the King of Aram?

What did the king assume was happening?

What was the actual cause of his problem?

What did the king decide to do about it?

Describe the attitude of Elisha's servant when Aram's army showed up.

Describe the attitude of Elisha to the same circumstances.

What did the servant see when God opened his eyes?

How would this change his attitude?