

1. Pruning is painful, but it produces greater fruit and purpose in our lives.
2. The Shunammite woman believes Elisha is a man of God and uses her wealth and social status to show great hospitality to Elisha.
3. In gratitude for her hospitality, Elisha wants to reward her. However, she is content and desires nothing. Elisha prophesies that although she is barren, she will have a child.
4. The promise of a child overwhelms her because it touches her deepest desire (vs 16).
5. When her child dies, the Shunammite woman goes into this trauma, anticipating God's intervention. She responds to her greatest trial by pursuing God, not collapsing in despair.
6. The pruning in the Shunammite woman's life refines her faith, and the death of her son allows God to be glorified through his resurrection.
7. Faith is not faith until it is tested. It often lays dormant for years in seed form, until a trial surfaces.
8. Pruning looks different for everyone, God's pruning makes us more valuable for the Kingdom, bringing Him great glory.
9. God doesn't make mistakes or accidents and never wastes a trial. It's important to consider how God is shaping us.
10. "All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness." – Hebrews 12:11

GREEK & HEBREW WORDS

Gadwl (gaw-dole´); great (in any sense); high, long, loud, mighty, noble

TODAY'S WORSHIP

Only A Holy God
Taste and See
Revelation Song

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Mark mentions the idea that faith is not proven to be real until it is tested.

- Where have you seen your faith tested either recently or significantly?
- What did it reveal to you about your beliefs or trust in God?

The word “shalom,” used by the Shunammite woman in response to her husband and Gehazi, reflects the idea of “things being as they should be.”

So, while her use of this word may have simply been a casual dismissal, it's also quite possible that she is expressing deep faith or trust in God in the midst of a heart-wrenching situation.

- If so, what does her use of the word ‘shalom’ communicate about how she understood God prior to knowing how He would act?
- Are there any other indications of her faith seen within the story?

Mark stated that the child’s death was intended to put God on display. It was an opportunity for God to be glorified.

- What does it mean for God to be glorified?
- Why does He want to be glorified by us?
- How is God glorified in and through our lives?

Consider:

- What might God have wanted to reveal about Himself to those involved in the story through this experience?
- What might God have wanted to reveal about Himself to the original Israelite audience? How might He have wanted them to respond?
- What might God want to reveal about Himself to us today through this story? How might he want us or you to respond?