

# 2 Kings 4

## Elisha's Ministry: Wonderful, Frustrating , Strange



**1. Consider the text. What is wonderful, frustrating and strange in each of these episodes?**

2 Kings 4:1–7 a widow receives oil

2 Kings 4:8–17 a woman receives a son

2 Kings 4:18–37 a woman receives a son back from the dead

2 Kings 4:38–41 the prophets receive some stew

2 Kings 4:42–44 the crowd receives bread

**2. Consider 2 Kings 4 in the context of Scripture as you discuss:**

(i) How is the Elisha story bringing up memories of Joshua?

(ii) When does God feed people in the Bible? When do vulnerable women receive children? When are people raised from the dead?

(iii) How is the ministry of Elisha like that of Elijah?  
Does it evidence a double portion of Elijah's spirit?

(iv) How do the episodes involving Elisha anticipate what Jesus will do and how Jesus will be received? Consider, for example, Luke 7:11–23. What other works of Jesus come to mind as you read 2 Kings 4?

**3. 2 Kings 4 and our lives today**

(i) Would you describe your life with God as wonderful, frustrating and strange?

(ii) Do you think that church is wonderful, frustrating and strange?

(iii) What factors affect your willingness to receive things from God?