

SURROUNDED BY ANGELS

Lectio Divina Guides by Bill Gaultiere

Lectio Divina Process

Hearing God's voice with confidence takes practice. A great way to learn is through Lectio Divina, a method of Scripture meditation developed by Benedict in the sixth century. Three times we read the Bible passage and then pray or journal quietly for a few minutes to help us listen to the Spirit. Each reading is guided by a focus question listed below. In a group context follow the leader's instructions to know when you can share your responses. Be sure to protect people's confidentiality.

Introduction to the Text

Elisha is able to see into the spiritual reality of God's kingdom so he can protect Israel from the Aramean army's attacks. The King of Aram is angry and sends his armies to capture the man of God. Elisha's servant is frightened to discover that their city is surround by thousands of enemy soldiers with their horses and chariots. But Elisha is calm and prays for his servant's eyes to be opened to see the spiritual world. Then he sees what Elisha sees: between them and their enemies, surrounding them on the hills nearby, are thousands and thousands of the Lord's angels in chariots of fire pulled by horses!

2 Kings 6

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."

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 (NIV).

Prayer / Journaling / Soul Talk Prompts

1. What is one word or phrase the Holy Spirit impresses on you? In silence meditate on that.
2. What situation has been discouraging to you in your relationships or ministry recently? (Or what situations in the future might leave you vulnerable to discouragement?)
3. What would help you to find encouragement in the Lord so that you can shepherd and lead people in God's way and with confidence?