

June 4

The Sin of Not Seeking God

- **Text:** 2 Kings 1:2~4 (June 19)
- **Bottom line:** When you encounter a difficult problem that you can't solve on your own, the best solution is to ask God.

≡ 1. Praise

Hymn 69

≡ 2. Prayer

God, King of kings, thank you for your grace in protecting and caring for our family. Please make it a time for our family to fear God and rely on you strongly .

≡ 3. The Word

Read 2 Kings 1:2~4 together (read the verse 3 times).

* Reading the Word over and over again in different translations will help you to deepen your understanding of the material.

<ESV>

2 Now Ahaziah fell through the lattice in his upper chamber in Samaria, and lay sick; so he sent messengers, telling them, "Go, inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron, whether I shall recover from this sickness." 3 But the angel of the Lord said to Elijah the Tishbite, "Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria, and say to them, 'Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron?' 4 Now therefore thus says the Lord, You shall not come down from the bed to which you have gone up, but you shall surely die.'" So Elijah went.

<NASB>

2 And Ahaziah fell through the window lattice in his upper chamber which was in Samaria, and became ill. So he sent messengers and said to them, "Go, inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron, whether I will recover from this sickness." 3 But the angel of the Lord said to Elijah the Tishbite, "Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria and say to them, 'Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron?'" 4 Now therefore, this is what the Lord says: 'You will not get down from the bed upon which you have lain, but you shall certainly die.'" Then Elijah departed.

Understanding Text

Ahaziah, the king of northern Israel, fell from the parapet of the king's palace and was seriously injured. On the verge of death, he did not seek God, but sent an errand boy to Beelzebub, the god of Ekron, to inquire about his illness. In His wrath, God sent Elijah to Ahaziah to rebuke him for his unbelief and pronounce him dead.

Understanding the text for leaders

Ahaziah, the king of northern Israel, was the son of Ahab and Jezebel, who were zealous idolatrous. He imitated Ahab and Jezebel and was judged to be evil in God's eyes (1 Kings 22:51~53). Ahaziah ignored the God of Israel and relied more on idols. After falling from the roof ledge of the king's palace and seriously injured, Ahaziah sent an errand boy to Beelzebub, the god of Ekron (a Philistine city), to ask if he would be brought back to life. Beelzebub was a fly-shaped god who was also called the "god of filth" and was an idol believed to have the ability to prophesy. When God saw that he was looking for an idol instead of God in the face of a crisis, He sent Elijah to tell him the end of his life, which he wanted to know. Elijah meets the king's messenger and rebukes Ahaziah for being foolish in looking for foreign gods because there is no God in Israel. He told them that Ahaziah would surely die. God constantly sent His people to show us that God alone is the Lord of life and the One who rules the whole world. However, the foolish and stubborn people did not listen to God's words, but instead sought for incompetent idols and perished.

4. Sharing

1) What did Ahaziah do after falling off a ledge and being seriously injured? What did God say to Ahaziah through Elijah ? (Verses 2~4)

Upper Grades

What did God rebuke Ahaziah through the prophet Elijah? (verse 3).

Lower Grades

What did God rebuke King Ahaziah for? (verses 2~3)

Question Guide

Make it clear that the "method" Ahaziah chose to resolve his difficult situation was wrong. Tell him that God is the only one who can give Beelzebub the answer he wanted to hear.

Comments for Leaders

Even when Ahaziah was seriously injured and threatened to die, he did not seek the God of Israel, but sought answers from Beelzebub, the god of Ekron. But God alone is the ruler of the whole world and the owner of life. The God of Israel is the one who can give Ahaziah the answers he wanted to know. Ahaziah, who did not seek God in difficult times, but found idols, ended up dying.

2) What is your go-to approach when you have a hard time or a problem? Now, what do you do when something goes wrong?

■ **Upper Grades**

What's bothering you the most these days? Pray to God for help.

■ **Lower Grades**

Are you upset and overwhelmed? I pray, "God, please help me."

□ **Question Guide**

In many cases, students try to solve problems by searching the Internet, confiding in their peers, or doing what their peers do. Just as God says, "Are you going to Beelzebub because there is no God in Israel?" we also often try to solve our problems with something else, even though God exists. When Christians have problems, they must first pray to God, listen to God's Word, and choose how to get wisdom from the Bible. I don't know how to solve a difficult problem, but Almighty God knows the answer and the solution. If you confess your problems before God and ask for His help, God will help you.

□ **Comments for Leaders**

Ahaziah was still not relying on God in the face of life's crisis, but relying on something else that would help him. The Bible tells us that God alone is the Lord of life and the One who rules over all things. Families who believe in God and pray can always taste God's help. If there is a difficult problem in the family, I hope that we can share it honestly (as far as possible) with our children and experience God's work by praying together.

≡ **5. Be grateful**

Thank God for helping you whenever you seek and rely on Him in difficult and difficult situations.

≡ **6. Prayer**

God, who is the ruler of life and death, I want to be the first person to remember You in the face of crisis. When our family is in trouble, please help us not pay attention to the problem, but pray together and find the way in Your word.