

You in Five Years

The Absence of a Crisis

Key Scriptures

So he departed from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen in front of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and cast his cloak upon him. ²⁰And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah and said, "Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." And he said to him, "Go back again, for what have I done to you?" ²¹And he returned from following him and took the yoke of oxen and sacrificed them and boiled their flesh with the yokes of the oxen and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and went after Elijah and assisted him. 1 Kings 19:19-21 NLT

Elisha the son of Shaphat is here, who poured water on the hands of Elijah. 2 Kings 3:11

Then Elijah took his cloak and rolled it up and struck the water, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, till the two of them could go over on dry ground.

⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you." And Elisha said, "Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me." ¹⁰And he said, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you, but if you do not see me, it shall not be so." ¹¹And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²And Elisha saw it and he cried, "My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" And he saw him no more.

Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces. ¹³And he took up the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. ¹⁴Then he took the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and struck the water, saying, "Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?" And when he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over. @ Kings 2:8-14

TALK IT OVER

Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- What comes to mind when you hear the word Crisis? How do you react emotionally to the thought of a crisis?
- Did your family read the Christmas story growing up?

Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Pastor Lane defined a crisis as an event that proves you have the ability to change. Is that a good definition in your mind? Why or why not?
- Which part of Elisha's story speaks to you the most?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Which is harder for you to do? Take drastic action to get started, or steady progression to see things grow? Why?
- What drastic action do you need to take to get started? How are you going to ensure that you actually do it?
- In what area are you feeling the obscurity of the steady progression without enjoying the momentum that is promised at the end? What are you going to do to make sure you don't quit before you get there?

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

God, thank You for allowing crises into our lives to prove that we have the ability to change. Help us to not wait for an external crisis to force us into the change you are calling us into, but to feel our need for change and act on it. May your Holy Spirit reveal to us the areas of our lives where we need an internal crisis so we can become the people you have called us to be. In Jesus name. Amen

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal one area of your life where the pain of staying the same will be greater than the pain of change.
- Find accountability and community to help you either take that drastic action and encourage you to keep going with steady progression. If you are not already in a Life Group, join one. If you need help finding one, please contact the church office.