

Small Groups

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Mantles – Part 1
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Main Idea – A mantle - in the biblical sense - is a unique anointing and authority that covers a person, and for which that person must be responsible to maintain. Mantles were created by God for His earthly purposes, and are available to be transferred from generation to generation.

Biblical mantles

- Many of the significant people in the Bible had particular mantles from heaven that were created to serve God's purposes here on earth.
- Those patriarchs established the foundation upon which God's work would be built. Their spiritual mantles are still here.
- Biblical mantles are given by God's grace.
- Even though we cannot earn a mantle, nor are deserving of it, we need to position ourselves – to place ourselves in proximity to the mantle – to eventually receive it when it is handed down. Do not disregard an opportunity to position yourself for a mantle.
- Elisha put himself in proximity to Elijah, a man who carried a mantle from heaven. **2 Kings 2: 1-2, 4, 6, 9 - And it came to pass, when the Lord was about to take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal. Then Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here, please, for the Lord has sent me on to Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As the Lord lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!” So they went down to Bethel. . . Then Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here, please, for the Lord has sent me to Jericho.” But he said, “As the Lord lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!” So they came to Jericho. . . Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here, please for the Lord has sent me on to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the Lord lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!” So the two of them went on. . . And so it was, when they had crossed over, that Elijah said to Elisha, “Ask! What may I do for you, before I am taken away from you?” Elisha said, “Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me.”**

Same goal, different assignments

- Kingdom workers all have the same ultimate goal: to take possession of God's promises, to take new territory for Him, and to leave our place better than when we found it.

- But, we have different assignments - just as did the old patriarchs in the Bible.

Noah – anointed to start

- **Genesis 6-9** tells the story of Noah.
- God told Noah to build an ark so that God could start again with humanity.

Genesis 6:13-14 – And God said to Noah, “The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them and behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch.

- There is a special anointing - a specific mantle - given to those who are to begin a new thing.
- Perhaps you have a mantle to begin something new; something that has not been handed down to you.
- Even though Noah faced resistance and taunts, he had peace with his assignment. So, too, will God give you peace if you are given a mantle to start something new. **Philippians 4:6-7 - Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.**

Abraham – anointed to see and receive

- God told Abraham to leave his family's culture and environment because it was filled with paganism. **Genesis 12:1 – Now the Lord had said to Abram: “Get out of your country, from your family and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you.”**
- God desired to have Abraham in an environment where Abraham could focus on God's voice, away from the distractions and static of his home environment.
- You can repeat only what you've heard. God wanted Abraham to clearly hear what God was saying.
- It took courage for Abraham to leave his home, but he trusted God. His faith empowered him to trust. He didn't know where he was going, but knew God would enable him to recognize the place when he got there.

Isaac – anointed to increase

- Isaac was Abraham's son. When Abraham died, Isaac was the recipient of the original promise given to his father.
- Through Isaac's anointing, the promise given to Abraham grew. **Genesis 26:13 – The man began to prosper, and continued prospering until he became very prosperous.**
- Isaac was successful – almost in an uncanny way – because he faithfully followed in his father's legacy. **Genesis 26:18, 22 – And Isaac dug again the**

wells of water which they had dug in the days of Abraham his father, for the Philistines had stopped them up after the death of Abraham. He called them by the names which his father had called them. . . And he moved from there and dug another well, and they did not quarrel over it. So he called its name Rehoboth, because he said, “For now the Lord has made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land.”

Jacob – anointed to overcome

- The story of Jacob is told in a big section of Genesis, starting in Chapter 25 and finishing in Chapter 50.
- Jacob had a difficult life; some of the difficulties resulted from his own actions, other circumstances simply came upon him.
- Through it all, Jacob’s mantle was to be the immediate father of the nation of Israel. His sons were the patriarchs of the twelve tribes of Israel.
- Jacob’s many struggles enabled him to establish his own, personal relationship with God that was unique to him.

Moses – anointed to remember

- Moses is credited as being the author of the Bible’s first five books: Genesis through Deuteronomy.
- It is generally understood that Moses wrote about, and codified into one series of documents, the creation and early history of our planet.
- To be able to do that, Moses had to listen to God, study, and remember.
- Moses’ writings were focused on what God is like and His legacy for His people.
- The Biblical patriarchs provide us with examples of how we can pattern our own lives.
- God used the patriarchs to carry mantles that were used by God to accomplish His purposes.
- The mantles worn by the patriarchs, and other influential believers, are still here on earth and are available for inheritance.

Reflective Questions for Mantles, Part 1

1. Pastor Stephen identified five mantles worn by some of the original Bible patriarchs: mantles to start, see & receive, increase, overcome, and remember. Reflecting on your own life, do any of those mantles seem familiar to you? Or, do you feel a different anointing as your own part in God’s story?

2. Mantles are given by grace as a tool. What might God have seen in the individual qualities of Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Moses that inspired Him to give those men special mantles?
3. Are you in proximity to receive a mantle when the current benefactor leaves it behind? Why did you answer as you did?