

onechurch

bigIdea small group discussion



We all have something to offer to those around us. If God is part of your story, then He wants you to share that with those still living like the “you” of the past. In the church world we use the word discipleship. You may also hear it called mentoring. What ever you call it, it is clearly the way God has outlined for us to share our faith from generation to generation. One on one, investing in each other, being real!

BIG IDEA: It's not your job to fill someone's cup, but to empty your cup.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Is there anyone in your life you want to be like in 5 years? 10 years?
2. What steps do you need to make to be like them?
3. Speaking spiritually, do you think just viewing that person for afar would give you the information you need to be like that person in the future?
4. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read 1 Kings 19:19-21.* What's the point of the cloak throwing? Of burning the plows and sacrificing the oxen?

Elisha was a prosperous farmer who lived in the Jordan Valley, 23 miles south of the Sea of Galilee. Throwing a prophet's cloak around a person symbolized the passing of the power and authority of the office to that individual. Elisha terminated his former occupation and from then on served as a prophet. His sacrifice of his oxen as a burnt offering to Yahweh symbolized his total personal commitment to God—he 'burned the ships' and all ties to his former life, and made the decision to go all in.

5. Just a few verses earlier, Elijah is ready to give up serving God. Now, we see Elisha giving up his chosen profession and serving God, the exact opposite attitude of Elijah just a few verses earlier. Why is it that the longer we serve God, the more complacent and the less passion we tend to have?
6. Why was it good for Elijah to see Elisha's *all in* commitment? Have you ever spent time with a brand new Christian? How does their passion and zeal for God excite you and rob off on you?
7. Have you ever *burned the plow* in some areas of your life?
8. Have you ever admired someone else's spiritual experiences but found they did not happen to you? How did that make you feel?
 - a. Do you feel like a failure?
 - b. Inadequate?
 - c. Disappointed in God?
 - d. Mad at God?
9. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read 2 Kings 2:1-14.* Did Elisha view Elijah's life from a distance?
10. Why does Elijah continue to ask Elisha to stay behind? Why does he keep refusing? What does that tell you about each man and their relationship?
11. Elisha stayed by Elijah's side not only on his last day on earth, but had done so since Elijah place his coat over him in 1 Kings 19:19-21. Are you willing to put in the effort to be like the people you admire?
12. What does seeing Elisha divide the waters of the Jordan River after Elijah is gone tell us about the influence Elijah on Elisha's faith?
13. Have you ever had the mantle of leadership passed onto you? What was it like? Could you truly be yourself?



DIGGING DEEPER

1. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read 2 Kings 2:1-14.* What does everyone suspect about Elisha? (see 2 Kings 2:7; 1 Kings 19:19)
2. Why use a cloak instead of a bridge or a boat? (2:8, 14) To what authority does this action tie him? (see Exodus 14:21-22, Joshua 3:7, 13)
3. What does Elisha mean by a double portion of your spirit? (see Deuteronomy 21:17) Is this a presumptuous request? Why does Elijah say it's a *difficult thing*? (see Numbers 11:17, 25)
4. What do the eyewitnesses think happened to Elijah? (15-18) Why does Elijah get special treatment (compare with Enoch in Genesis 5:24)
5. What does Elisha mean in verse 12? How does he feel? Has he passed Elijah's test (2:10) or been graded the request (2:9)? How does he double check to make sure?
6. Why doesn't Elisha fill them in on the true meaning of these events?

MOVING FORWARD

God has a plan for your life bigger and better than you can imagine. It requires that you exercise your faith and grow to see the world with God's eyes. Part of that journey includes finding someone already living a life of faith and learning what they already know – that the true source of joy, power and success come from God!

Mentoring by assumption does not work. Being intentional about allowing someone to have the right to speak into your life makes all the difference. It creates accountability for both people in the relationship. It opens up conversations that go deeper than the superficial.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

To pray in the coming week about God showing you who should be mentoring or that God would bring a mentor into your life.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

When they came to the other side, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I can do for you before I am taken away." And Elisha replied, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit and become your successor." "You have asked a difficult thing," Elijah replied. "If you see me when I am taken from you, then you will get your request. But if not, then you won't." As they were walking along and talking, suddenly a chariot of fire appeared, drawn by horses of fire. It drove between the two men, separating them, and Elijah was carried by a whirlwind into heaven. 2 Kings 2:9-11

