



ELIJAH

SESSION 5

- **Main Passage:** 2 Kings 2:1-14
 - **Purpose:** To show men the importance of building a life that honors God and can be passed on to those we influence.
 - **Session Snapshot:** If the Lord were to take you up in a whirlwind today, what would people say of you? Are you building a life that can be handed down? Are you satisfied with the amount of the Lord you have right now? These are questions that we must investigate in our study of Elijah today.
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GETTING STARTED

Kick-off your time together with a quick connection time or reviewing what you did in the last session.

FIRST, remind your group that this is week 5 of their video series on Elijah and that it's part of a larger study looking at the real men of the Bible.

THEN, if you want to start with asking men for prayer requests, checking in on how their weeks have gone, or any other housekeeping tasks, do so.

FINALLY, if there are no questions or other input, transition into the *Digging In* section of your leader's guide.

DIGGING IN

Jump into the session by watching this week's video.

FIRST, play the video. You can access the video by logging into your Iron Hill Press account.

THEN, when the video is over, lead men in a short discussion based on what Rick covered. Feel free to come up with your own questions, or consider asking some similar to those below:

- **In the video, Rick mentioned two different goals of raising kids. He said, "Dad's tend to think the ultimate goal is to raise good kids. The right goal is to raise them to leave and lead in the Gospel as adults." If you have kids, how did this statement challenge you?**
- **If you don't have kids, how does this challenge you to live? What is your role in leading the next generation?**
- **How would you define the word mentor? What has been your experience with mentoring?**
- **Elisha was mentoring Elijah. A mentor is a significant relationship in the life of any man. Rick asked, "Outside of your children, what men are you mentoring? Do you have a mentor?" Why is this important for you to be involved in mentoring relationships?**

- **Our life will always be serving someone or something. We can see that Elijah is giving his life away and mentoring Elijah to do the same, but with a specific focus: God. How is grace in your life being revealed through your life?**

FINALLY, transition into the Opening the Word portion of your time together by saying something like the following:

- **As we navigate our life journey, we must be laser-focused on growing and serving. In today's study in 2 Kings 2, we will look at Elijah and Elisha's lives and how each of these men teaches us how to start and finish well.**

OPENING THE WORD

Spend time going deeper into a specific concept Rick introduced in the video.

FIRST, explain that you're going to take a more in-depth look at 2 Kings 2:1-14. Elisha spent all of his time walking with Elijah. As Elijah was about to be taken up by the Lord, Elisha would not leave his side. Let's dive in and see why and understand why this is significant to us.

Remind men that the context for 2 Kings isn't that much different than 1 Kings. If necessary, use the following bullet points to help remind men of the context of the book:

- **Author:** Ancient Jewish history has Jeremiah as the author of 1 Kings and 2 Kings. However, this view has never been widely supported by scholars. It's best to view the books as a collection of writings with no known author.
- **Time frame:** 1 Kings and 2 Kings are extremely difficult to date because it's a collection of writings that could have been written and edited in stages.
- **Purpose:** 1 Kings and 2 Kings tell the stories of the kings of Israel. These books speak of the faithfulness or unfaithfulness of kings and the impact that a godly leader can have on God's people.

THEN, read or have a volunteer read 2 Kings 2:1-7. When the volunteer has finished, lead the group in a brief discussion. Ask something like:

- **In these verses 2, 4, and 6, we read that Elisha will not leave Elijah's side. We see him say multiple times, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." Elisha knew that this day would be Elijah's last and wanted to walk with him till the end. What does this teach you about the depth of their mentoring relationship?**
 - *Answer:* Elisha would not leave Elijah's side because he was a man of great character. He was committed to Elijah and his teaching. It is important that when we enter into a mentoring relationship, we remain committed to it.
- **In verses 3, 5, and 7, we see that the sons of prophets in Bethel and Jericho come and speak to Elisha, "Do you know that today the Lord will take away your master from over you?" Each time, Elisha acknowledged them and kept going forward with Elisha. You will naturally follow someone or something. What made Elijah so worthy of following even though others were telling Elisha this was the end?**
 - *Answer:* As Rick said, although Elijah wasn't perfect, his constant pursuit of God is what made him worthy. He pursued God, listened to God, and spoke for God. Although this was his last day on this earth, Elisha followed Elijah because he was about to take on the ministry of Elijah. Elisha honored the Lord with his life. Elijah honored the Lord by staying with Elisha until the end.
- **Who are you following closely or being mentored by that is taking you to the Lord?**

- Answers will vary based on each man in your group.
- **Who are you mentoring right now? If you are not leading anyone right now, what is holding you back from doing so?**
 - Answers will vary based on each man in your group. Use this as an opportunity to encourage men to examine their lives and push into committing to leading another.
- **Have you ever gotten excited and made a decision or moved on something too fast? We see the patience and commitment to learning from Elisha when he says, “Yes, I know; keep quiet.” He did not want to dishonor Elijah while he was living and chose to wait to step into his role as a prophet until his master told him it was time. Tell of a time you chose or moved too fast and its ripple effects on your life? Tell of a time you waited and the impact it made?**
 - Answers will vary based on life experiences. It is important to encourage those in your group to consider the discipline it takes to decide or wait to do something until the time is correct. Waiting is difficult, but the blessing comes with obedience to the Lord.

Before transitioning to the next question, say something like:

- **We begin to see a shift here in our passage. Elisha knows that it is about time for Elijah to be taken by the Lord. We are about to see Elijah’s end, and his ministry passed to Elisha. We need to be building a life that can be taught and handed off.**

NEXT, direct your group's attention to 2 Kings 2:8-14 and ask a volunteer to read it. Then, ask:

- **In his last act towards Elisha, Elijah asks, “What shall I do for you, before I am taken from you?” Elijah knew he was about to be taken up by the Lord and asked this major question. Elisha’s answer is astounding. “Let me share a double portion of your spirit on me.” Elijah was willing to ask what he truly admired and wanted. He wanted more of the Lord! What made this request so significant? What is it that you want from the Lord?**
 - *Answer:* After watching his mentor pursue God with his life, Elisha had learned that there is always more of the Lord. He would not be satisfied with remaining the same but wanted more of the Lord. He wants to know, live and speak of God with all that he is.
- **Verses 11-13 are amazing. Can you see the imagery in your head? This is quite the exit from Elijah from the world and an entrance into the presence of God. A whirlwind took him up! All men will indeed die at some time, but the question is, what will be said of you? Elisha immediately honored his mentor by calling him “my father” and grieved his loss. If the Lord were to take you up in a whirlwind today, what would people say of you?**
 - Answers will vary by individual.
- **After Elijah was taken up, Elisha took up the cloak of Elijah, struck the water with it, and called on the Lord. Elisha now parted the same water that Elijah parted. Why is this important to take note of?**
 - *Answer:* Elisha has remained committed to his teacher, learned from him, and received a double portion of the Spirit of God. The prophetic ministry had been passed from Elijah to Elisha. He is now the Prophet of God. Elijah finished his life journey well with the Lord and has prepared Elisha to begin his well.

FINALLY, say something like:

- **Elisha and Elijah are incredible examples for us to look at for mentoring, starting, living, and ending with the Lord as the prime focus of our lives. Elijah grew Elisha in a way that he took on the ministry and carried it forward with power.**

Ask if there are any questions. If there are none, transition into Accepting the Challenge.

ACCEPTING THE CHALLENGE

Focus your group's attention on key takeaways from your time together.

FIRST, explain that you want to challenge the group to focus on the takeaways from this session. Consider starting this portion of your session by asking your group what they think are the main application points from your session. Allow discussion to go until there are no more suggestions.

Then, if necessary, supplement your discussion with the following application points. Say something like:

- **Who is mentoring you, and who are you mentoring?**
 - We all need mentors that point us toward Jesus. Additionally, we all need to point others to Him as well. Would you begin to ask God who should be mentoring you and who you should be mentoring? Take action steps this week on beginning this important part of your life.
- **Do you spend more time looking at or even pointing others to your past? Or do you spend more time pursuing the Lord and pointing others toward Him now?**
 - Are you building a life ministry that can be handed down? Take time this week evaluating your pursuit of God while also asking God to focus your eyes on Him.
- **Are you satisfied with the amount of the Lord you have right now? Are you bold enough to ask the Lord to bring you deeper into him?**

If it feels appropriate, allow some discussion about the kind of processing they find themselves doing.

FINALLY, encourage men to continue to marinate on these points in the week to come. Challenge them to listen to what God is trying to tell them and to respond accordingly. If there are no more questions or input, close your time together in prayer.