

## Small Group Guide: The Mission Beyond Us

Based on 2 Kings 9 & 13 - The Story of Elijah, Elisha, and God's Eternal Mission



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### Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Begin your time together asking God to open your hearts to His Word and help you understand how His mission extends beyond any individual life.

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### Icebreaker (10 minutes)

**Question:** Share about a time when training or a lesson from your past unexpectedly came in handy years later. How did that experience shape you?

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### Key Takeaways from the Sermon

1. **The mission is bigger than any individual** - God's purposes extend beyond our lifetimes and continue through generations.
2. **Finishing what was started** - Elisha completed the mission originally given to Elijah, demonstrating faithfulness to God's calling.
3. **Half-hearted versus wholehearted obedience** - King Joash's incomplete response to Elisha's instruction limited God's blessing.
4. **The mission continues even after death** - Even Elisha's bones brought life, showing God's work transcends our mortality.

5. **It's not about us** - Both prophets consistently pointed people to God, not themselves.
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## **Discussion Questions (30-40 minutes)**

### **Understanding the Text**

1. What stands out to you most about the three-generation mission (Elijah → Elisha → Elisha's servant)? Why do you think God works this way?
2. In 1 Kings 19, God gave Elijah a specific mission to anoint Hazael and Jehu. Why do you think this mission wasn't completed until Elisha's time, and even through Elisha's servant?
3. What do you think the pastor meant when he said "the mission does not die with you"?

### **Personal Reflection**

4. The pastor shared a story about his father teaching him to drive without brakes—a frustrating lesson that saved his life 24 years later. What "frustrating lessons" has God taught you that you didn't appreciate at the time? Have any come full circle?
5. King Joash struck the ground only three times when he should have struck five or six. In what areas of your spiritual life might you be giving a "half-hearted effort" rather than fully committing?
6. When have you been tempted to make your faith about yourself rather than pointing others to God? What does it look like practically to keep the focus on Him?

### **Application to Life**

7. The Great Commission calls us to "make disciples of all nations." How does understanding that this mission extends beyond your lifetime change how you approach:
  - Parenting or mentoring?
  - Sharing your faith?
  - Serving in the church?
8. Elisha was silent for four chapters after completing his primary mission. What does this teach us about seasons of life and knowing when our specific task is complete?

9. The pastor mentioned we have "the fullness of God's word" available to us today. How can we avoid letting Scripture "collect dust on the shelf" and instead engage it wholeheartedly?
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## **Practical Applications (15 minutes)**

### **Individual Commitments**

Choose one action step to implement this week:

- **Pass it on:** Identify one spiritual lesson or truth you've learned that you can intentionally teach to someone younger in the faith.
- **Go wholehearted:** Pick one area where you've been half-hearted in your obedience and commit to "striking the ground" more times—going deeper, further, or more consistently.
- **Point upward:** In your conversations this week, consciously redirect praise or attention from yourself to what God is doing.
- **Invest in legacy:** Write a letter or have a conversation with a family member or mentee about the faith lessons you want to pass on.

### **Group Challenge**

As a group, discuss: What is one way our small group can participate in God's eternal mission together? How can we invest in something that will outlast us?

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### **Reflection Questions for the Week**

- What mission has God given me that I need to complete faithfully, even if I won't see the full results?
  - Am I training the next generation to continue the work God has started?
  - Where am I settling for "good enough" when God is calling me to wholehearted devotion?
  - How can I better use my gifts to point people to God rather than myself?
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### **Closing Prayer (5-10 minutes)**

### **Prayer Focus:**

- Thank God that His mission is bigger than any of us and that we get to be part of His eternal story
  - Ask for strength to be wholehearted in our obedience, not settling for half-measures
  - Pray for wisdom to invest in the next generation and pass on our faith
  - Request humility to always point others to God, not ourselves
  - Commit to finishing the specific missions God has given each person in the group
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### **Additional Resources**

#### **For Further Study:**

- Read the full account of Elijah's calling in 1 Kings 19
- Trace the theme of "generational faithfulness" through Scripture (Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Psalm 78:1-8, 2 Timothy 2:2)
- Reflect on Jesus's words in John 14:12 about doing "greater works"

**Memory Verse for the Week:** *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."* - Matthew 28:19-20

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### **Leader Notes**

- Be prepared to share your own examples of half-hearted versus wholehearted obedience
- Create space for quieter members to share—this topic may bring up deep reflections
- If discussing legacy becomes emotional (especially for older members), allow time for those feelings
- Consider having group members pray specifically for one person they're investing in spiritually

## 5-Day Devotional: Living Beyond Ourselves



### Day 1: The Mission That Transcends Us

**Reading:** 1 Kings 19:15-21

**Devotional:** God's mission doesn't begin or end with any single person. When God commissioned Elijah to anoint Hazael and Jehu, He knew the completion would come through Elisha—and even Elisha's servant. This teaches us that we're part of something eternal, something far greater than our individual lives. The Great Commission Jesus gave wasn't meant to die with the apostles; it's handed down generation to generation. Today, consider: What part of God's mission are you carrying forward? What are you teaching the next generation? Your faithfulness today plants seeds that will bear fruit long after you're gone. You're not just living for yourself—you're living for an eternal kingdom that outlasts every earthly achievement.

## **Day 2: Prepared for Unexpected Moments**

**Reading:** Proverbs 22:1-6

**Devotional:** Sometimes the lessons that frustrate us most become the ones that save us later. Like learning to drive without brakes—an annoying exercise that proved life-saving decades later—spiritual disciplines can feel tedious until crisis strikes. Prayer, Scripture memorization, worship, and community aren't just religious activities; they're training for moments when everything falls apart. When your "brakes fail" spiritually—when doubt crashes in, when grief overwhelms, when temptation intensifies—will you have the muscle memory to respond faithfully? The time to build spiritual strength isn't during the emergency; it's in the ordinary, daily practice of walking with God. What spiritual discipline feels tedious today but might sustain you tomorrow? Don't despise the training season. It's preparing you for battles you can't yet see.

## **Day 3: Wholehearted Obedience**

**Reading:** 2 Kings 13:14-19

**Devotional:** The king struck the ground only three times when he should have struck five or six. His half-hearted obedience limited God's deliverance. How often do we approach God's Word the same way—doing just enough to feel religious but not enough to experience transformation? We pray briefly instead of persistently. We forgive partially instead of completely. We serve conveniently instead of sacrificially. God doesn't want our leftovers; He desires our wholehearted devotion. When we approach Scripture, prayer, worship, and service with full passion and commitment, we position ourselves to receive the fullness of what God wants to accomplish in and through us. Today, examine your spiritual life honestly: Where are you striking the ground only three times? What would wholehearted obedience look like in that area? God weeps over our half-measures because He knows what we're missing.

## **Day 4: Pointing Beyond Ourselves**

**Reading:** John 3:22-30

**Devotional:** Elijah and Elisha never made themselves the center of attention. When miraculous provision came, when armies were defeated, when the dead were raised—they pointed people to God. John the Baptist understood this perfectly: "He must increase, but I must decrease." In our age of self-promotion and personal branding, this countercultural humility challenges us deeply. Every gift, talent, and opportunity we have exists to direct attention to God, not ourselves. When you serve, do people leave impressed with you or with God? When you speak, do conversations end focused on your wisdom or God's faithfulness? When you give, are you seeking recognition or Kingdom impact? The most powerful witness isn't showcasing our abilities but demonstrating God's sufficiency. Today, intentionally deflect praise and redirect it upward. Make yourself smaller so Christ becomes greater.

## **Day 5: Legacy That Lives Beyond Death**

**Reading:** 2 Kings 13:20-21; Hebrews 11:1-4

**Devotional:** Even Elisha's bones brought life to a dead man. The prophet's faithfulness created a legacy that continued working after his death. This isn't about physical relics but spiritual reality: when we live wholeheartedly for God, our influence doesn't end at the grave. The faith you model, the truth you teach, the love you demonstrate—these ripple into eternity through lives you've touched. Abel, though dead, still speaks through his faith. Your prayers for your children's children, your investment in younger believers, your faithful witness at work—all of this continues bearing fruit long after you're gone. You're not building a career; you're building an eternal legacy. The question isn't what you'll accomplish in your lifetime, but what will continue because you were faithful. Live today with eternity in view, knowing your wholehearted devotion to God creates impact that transcends your years.