

Small Group Guide: Passing the Torch
2 Kings 2 - The Ministry of Elijah and Elisha



Opening Prayer & Icebreaker

Icebreaker Question: Share about a teacher, mentor, or coach who significantly impacted your life. What made their influence so memorable?

Key Scripture

2 Kings 2:1-15 (Focus on the transition from Elijah to Elisha)

Sermon Summary

This message explores the transfer of ministry from Elijah to Elisha, highlighting how God uses different personalities and approaches to accomplish His purposes. Despite their differences—Elijah the introvert who preferred solitude, and Elisha the extrovert who lived among people—both served the same God with the same mission. The sermon challenges us to consider our role in discipleship and mentoring others, even when it feels uncomfortable or outside our natural personality.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text

1. **What stands out to you most about the relationship between Elijah and Elisha?** How did their different personalities complement the same ministry?
2. **Why do you think Elijah kept trying to leave Elisha behind?** Was he testing him, or was this simply his introverted nature? What does Elisha's response ("I will not leave you") tell us about his character?
3. **What is the significance of Elisha asking for a "double portion" of Elijah's spirit?** How does understanding this as humility rather than greed change your perspective?

Personal Reflection

4. **The pastor shared stories of two very different teachers who impacted his life.** Which story resonated more with you—the teacher who made a brief but powerful statement (Mr. Rehor), or the teacher who walked with him daily for years (Mr. Erb)? Why?
5. **When the sons of the prophets kept asking Elisha, "Do you know the Lord will take away your master today?"** he responded, "Yes, I know. Keep silent." Have you ever experienced a time when well-meaning people said too much during a difficult season? How did you handle it?
6. **Consider your own personality.** Are you more like Elijah (introverted, preferring solitude) or Elisha (extroverted, living among people)? How does your personality affect the way you serve God and others?

Application & Action

7. **The sermon emphasized that Elijah trained hundreds of prophets despite being an introvert who preferred isolation.** What excuses do we make for not investing in others? How does Elijah's example challenge those excuses?
8. **"We live in a society that has requested us to be secluded all the time... technology will grant us all the community that we need. And it's just not true."** In what ways has technology or modern culture tempted you to avoid genuine community and discipleship?

9. **Who is someone God might be calling you to mentor or disciple?** This doesn't have to be formal—it could be a coworker, neighbor, family member, or someone in this group. What's one practical step you could take this week?
10. **Conversely, who in your life could serve as a mentor to you?** What would it look like to be as persistent as Elisha in pursuing that relationship?
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Key Takeaways

- ✓ **Different personalities, same mission** - God uses introverts and extroverts, different approaches and styles, all for His glory and purposes.
 - ✓ **Discipleship requires intentionality** - Even in our natural tendencies toward isolation or busyness, we must make time to invest in others.
 - ✓ **Humility in leadership transition** - Elisha's request for a double portion reflected his awareness that he needed God's help to live up to his mentor's legacy.
 - ✓ **Community over isolation** - Modern culture tempts us toward isolation, but God's design is for us to live in community and make disciples.
 - ✓ **God confirms His calling** - Just as God showed He was with Elisha as He had been with Elijah (through parting the Jordan), God confirms His work in our lives.
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Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

Choose ONE of the following to put into practice:

Option 1: Reach Out

- Identify someone younger in the faith or life experience than you
- Invite them to coffee, lunch, or a walk this week
- Simply ask about their story and listen

Option 2: Seek Mentorship

- Think of someone whose faith or character you admire
- Ask if they'd be willing to meet regularly (monthly or quarterly)

- Come prepared with specific areas where you'd like to grow

Option 3: Evaluate Your Community

- Take an honest inventory of how much time you spend in genuine community vs. isolated
- Identify one technology habit that's preventing real connection
- Make one concrete change (limit social media, commit to in-person gatherings, etc.)

Option 4: Honor a Mentor

- Think of someone who invested in your life (like the pastor's teachers)
- Write them a note, make a call, or visit them to express gratitude
- Share specifically how they impacted your life

Closing Reflection

Read together: Matthew 28:19-20 *"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."*

Final Question: How does knowing that Jesus promises to be "with you always" give you courage to step into uncomfortable discipleship and community?

Prayer Focus

- Pray for courage to step out of our comfort zones into genuine community
 - Ask God to reveal who He's calling us to mentor or disciple
 - Pray for humility to seek mentorship from others
 - Thank God for those who have invested in our lives
 - Ask for the Holy Spirit's power to carry out the Great Commission
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For Next Week

Come prepared to share:

- One way you stepped into discipleship or community this week
- Any challenges or victories you experienced
- Continue reading through 2 Kings as we follow Elisha's ministry

"The gospel is meant to go out and to change the world and to fight back against the wickedness and the evil of this world so that it can be given back to redemption."

5-Day Devotional: Passing the Torch - Legacy and Discipleship



Day 1: The Courage to Mentor Despite Our Nature

Reading: 2 Kings 2:1-6

Devotional:

Elijah was an introvert who preferred solitude, yet he faithfully mentored Elisha and trained an entire school of prophets. His example challenges us to move beyond our natural inclinations when God calls us to invest in others. Notice how Elisha refused to leave his mentor's side, recognizing the value of learning from someone further along in their journey. Are you making yourself available to mentor someone, even if it feels uncomfortable? Conversely, are you pursuing godly mentors with the same tenacity Elisha showed? God doesn't ask us to change our personality, but He does call us to steward the wisdom He's given us by pouring it into the next generation, regardless of whether we're naturally inclined toward solitude or community.

Day 2: Humility in Asking for More

Reading: 2 Kings 2:7-10

Devotional:

When Elisha asked for a double portion of Elijah's spirit, it wasn't greed—it was humility. He recognized the magnitude of the calling before him and knew he needed God's supernatural empowerment to fulfill it. Too often we approach ministry or our Christian walk with self-reliance, believing our natural abilities are sufficient. Elisha teaches us differently. He saw the greatness of his mentor and understood he needed even more of God's Spirit to accomplish what lay ahead. What responsibilities has God placed before you that feel overwhelming? Instead of shrinking back or relying solely on your strength, follow Elisha's example: cry out for more of God's presence and power. Acknowledge your insufficiency, and watch how God meets your humble dependence with His abundant provision.

Day 3: God Confirms His Calling

Reading: 2 Kings 2:11-15

Devotional:

The dramatic moment when Elijah was taken up in a whirlwind served as divine confirmation that Elisha had received what he requested. When Elisha struck the Jordan River and it parted, the watching prophets declared, "The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha." God doesn't leave us guessing about our calling—He confirms it. Sometimes that confirmation comes through miraculous signs; more often it comes through open doors, the affirmation of mature believers, and the fruit of our labors. Are you waiting for confirmation of God's direction in your life? Look for His faithfulness in the small things. When God calls you to something, He equips you for it and makes a way where there seems to be no way, just as He parted the waters for Elisha.

Day 4: Grief and Ministry Coexist

Reading: 2 Kings 2:11-12, 16-18

Devotional:

Elisha tore his clothes in mourning even as he took up Elijah's mantle. He grieved deeply while simultaneously stepping into his calling. This teaches us that following God doesn't exempt us from loss, pain, or sorrow. Ministry and grief can coexist. Notice how Elisha needed space to process his loss, repeatedly telling others, "I know—keep silent." Sometimes the most spiritual thing we can do is acknowledge our pain while continuing to walk in obedience. We don't have to pretend we're unaffected by life's hardships to be faithful. God doesn't ask us to suppress our emotions; He invites us to bring them into our calling. Like Elisha, we can mourn what we've lost while still moving forward in what God has given us to do.

Day 5: Different Methods, Same Mission

Reading: 2 Kings 2:19-25; 1 Kings 18:20-40

Devotional:

Elijah made a public spectacle confronting the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel. Elisha quietly called bears from the woods to deal with mockers. Both served the same God, fought the same spiritual battles, yet operated differently according to their personalities and God's leading. The body of Christ needs this diversity. We don't all have to minister the same way, use the same methods, or have identical approaches. What matters is faithfulness to God's call and alignment with His truth. Stop comparing your ministry to others or feeling inadequate because you operate differently. God intentionally designed you with unique gifts, temperament, and calling. Like Elijah and Elisha, focus on your obedience to God's specific direction for your life while celebrating how He works differently through others toward the same redemptive mission.