

STORIES OF FAITH

The Mantle of Elisha

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PREPARATION AND PRAYER

Elisha 's Declaration 'Where is the God of Elijah?' was described the great preacher Charles Spurgeon as a prayer of faith.

"Lord, fill us with the faith of those who came before us, and add a double measure of your spirit's power!"

READ TOGETHER: 2 Kings 2: 1-13

PASSING ON THE MANTLE

The company of prophets look on as Elijah and Elisha reach the banks of the Jordan In an act that echoes Moses' awesome deliverance of God's people at the Red Sea, Elijah strikes the water with his rolled -up cloak and the waters divide to the right and to the left -so they pass over on dry ground.

I wonder if Elijah wanted to teach his successor, Elisha, that the miracle crossings of the past - from Moses, to Joshua, to the present day - were now going to be up to him.

SPIRITUAL FATHERS AND MOTHERS

FOR DISCUSSION:

1. What stands out about the relationship between Elijah and Elisha?
2. Who stands out as the person whose life, example and influence has brought you closer to God? Share about this person with your group.
3. What are the qualities that make us good spiritual fathers/ mothers/ mentors for others?
4. Who are the people speaking into our lives on a regular basis?
5. What qualities should we look for in a mentor, or as a mentor?
Some suggestions:
 - People who have the ability to accept imperfections in others
 - People who are not "truth only" or "grace only" but bring both
 - People who are no stranger to pain but have a measure of healing
 - People who are hungry for God and are continuing to grow in their faith
 - People who have a loving track record

THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT

COMMENT:

Elisha had to pick it up the mantle of Elijah and test it out- he had to have God's anointing, God's spirit- not Elijah's anointing or Elijah's spirit. Many of the miracles of Elisha's ministry echo those of Jesus in the gospels and of the apostles in the book of Acts. Jesus had told the disciples that they would do 'greater works' that He had done:

The person who trusts me will not only do what I'm doing but even greater things, because I, on my way to the Father, am giving you the same work to do that I've been doing. You can count on it. From now on, whatever you request along the lines of who I am and what I am doing, I'll do it. That's how the Father will be seen for who he is in the Son. I mean it. Whatever you request in this way, I'll do. (John 14: 12-14 MSG)

FOR DISCUSSION: TAKING A RISK LIKE ELISHA!

How have you experienced the power of the Spirit flowing through you to minister to another person? Discuss with your group and share your own 'faith stories'.

PRAYER

In pairs or threes: Share the area where you have the deepest spiritual hunger and ask for a double anointing of God's spirit!