

SERMON SERIES: This is Us: Our Teens

SPEAKER: Scott Beckenhauer

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Key Line

God has given us the responsibility of letting teenagers know how much they matter.

Introduction

The teenage years can be difficult and confusing, but they are also a time of growth. Teens are not just bodies, despite the fact that teenagers' bodies are changing a lot. They are also spiritual and can experience huge spiritual growth during their teenage years.

- Who were some important influences on you as a teenager?
- Who invested in you spiritually when you were a teenager?

Seek the Word

God sent Elijah to Elisha. They had a close mentoring relationship over the next few years.

Read 2 Kings 2:2-10.

- When Elijah told Elisha to stay behind and leave his mentor, how did Elisha respond? *(He refused. He said he would stay with his mentor.)* What does this tell you about their relationship and how Elisha felt about Elijah? *(They were close, and he loved him and determined to stay with him.)*
- In verse 7, they stopped at the Jordan River. What later would happen at the Jordan? *(Jesus was baptized there.)* What did Elisha do there? *(He slapped the water and parted it so they could cross over.)* What does this remind you of? *(It refers back to the Israelites crossing the Red Sea.)* Why do you think God did this miracle right then? *(It reminded Elijah and Elisha of their past and where they'd come from. It was a reminder of who they were.)*
- In verse 9, Elisha asked for a double portion of Elijah's spirit. This was his inheritance since Elijah was like a father to him and since he had left his parents to follow Elijah. What is the significance of him asking for his spirit instead of anything else? *(Elisha wanted to make a difference and was asking for what he knew would make a difference in the world. It also showed his love and appreciation for his mentor.)*
- When we interact with teenagers and young people in the church, what are we teaching them? *(How to follow Christ; how to carry the gospel forward to the next generation; how to live a godly life.)*

In our church, the student ministry focuses on junior high and high school. We are dedicated to showing students they matter to God.

- Have you seen any teenagers in our church? What are ways you've seen them serving?

Talk About It

The disciples of Jesus were between the ages of 13 and 30.

- They were mostly teenagers. Why do you think Jesus chose teenagers and entrusted them with the Gospel?
- What are some ways you can begin encouraging and mentoring younger people, especially teenagers? If you can't volunteer with the student ministry, how can you support it in different ways?
- Scott challenged us to choose several teenagers and begin praying for them every day. Who did you choose?
- Pray together for your teenagers today.