

**True Strength in Turbulent Times**  
“At the Water’s Edge”  
Growth Group Discussion  
2 Kings 2:1-15

**Opening Questions** (get everyone involved in discussion):

- Share about a time when you faced an obstacle that seemed insurmountable. How did you manage to get through it?
- Leaders: if anyone is in such a situation currently, give them the chance to share about it, and pause to pray for them before proceeding.
- Begin with prayer. Take at least 30 seconds to be silent, clearing your minds of distractions and preparing to hear from God’s word.

1. **For background on Elijah and Elisha’s relationship, read 1 Kings 19:15-21.**

2. **Read 2 Kings 2:1-6, then discuss the following.**

- What do both Elijah and Elisha know at the outset of this scene?
- What can you gather about their relationship from these verses?
- What seems to be happening with the “company of the prophets?”

3. **READ 2 Kings 2:7-10 and discuss.**

- What do you know about the Jordan River? What significant moments in biblical history have taken place there, up until this point in time?
- Although it wasn’t the main point of the sermon or the passage, Pastor Josh highlighted Elijah’s words in v. 9. In what way can Elijah’s question be a model or inspiration for you to carry out in some relationship? Is there someone to whom you need to ask a similar question?
- When Elisha answers (v. 9b), stating his request, what do you think he is asking for exactly?
- What significant need was Elisha acutely feeling in this moment, which would help explain his request?
- Read Joshua 3:6-17 and 4:14, for crucial background. In what way might the Joshua passage impact our interpretation of 2 Kings 2?

4. **READ 2 Kings 2:11-12 and discuss.**

- What do you think is taking place, as seen in the chariots and horses of fire?
- If you have time, use a concordance or Bible app to look up chariots and horses of fire, and whirlwind, and see what in what kind of circumstances we see these things. What does this information tell you about the current passage at hand?
- What emotion do you see in Elisha in these verses? What does this observation tell you?
- The phrase, “the chariots and horsemen of Israel,” seems to be a symbolic title for the chief prophet—here Elijah—indicating that he was God’s appointed defender of his people against idolatry. (See 2 Kings 13:14 for when the title is used of Elisha upon his death.) With this understanding, what might Elisha’s cry mean?

5. **READ 2 Kings 2:13-15 and discuss.**

- What indications do you see in this passage, confirming that God has now chosen and empowered Elisha to be the chief defender of his people, and the appointed spokesman for God?
- Do you think the previous story in Joshua has any bearing on how we understand these verses?
- What impact would these events have had on Elisha as he stepped into his new role?

6. **The Big Story of Scripture—read Matthew 3:13-17.**

- Do you think that the Elijah/Elisha story in 2 Kings 2 has any bearing on how we read these verses in Matthew? Why or why not?
- In what way might Jesus need confirmation, affirmation, or empowerment, similar to Elisha's request for a "double portion" in the earlier story?
- What does Jesus' baptism have to do with "fulfill[ing] all righteousness?" (v. 15).
- What was so special about the voice that Jesus heard after his baptism? How did it enable him to go and do what he had to do?
- What other gift does Jesus receive here (v. 16), which is instrumental for what he came to accomplish?

7. **Application**

- The big idea from Sunday's sermon was, "Because Jesus went through the water for you, you can know that he is in the water with you." Due to the fact that Jesus went into the "waters" of God's judgment in your place, you can be absolutely certain that God is with you and for you, and that you have the presence of his Holy Spirit in greater measure even than Elijah and Elisha.
  - To what degree is this truth real to your heart?
- In view of the challenges that you are facing, do you feel that this knowledge gives you the affirmation that you need? Why or why not?

**PRAYER:**

- Pray in response to what God has shown you through this study and discussion.
- Take time also to share about and pray for any other needs that exist in your group.