Walk With Me

Five Days of Opening Your Life to Somebody Else

This week is about two movements: invite somebody to come with you, and let somebody walk with you. Elijah and Elisha show us that following God is personal, but never private. God uses people to call us, form us, correct us, and carry his work beyond us.

Each day, read the passages slowly. Answer the questions honestly. Then take one real step. You do not need to have every answer or be farther along than everybody else. You only need to respond to what God is showing you today.

Scripture quotations are from the New Living Translation unless otherwise noted.

Pastor Daniel

DAY 1

The Cloak in the Field

READ SLOWLY

1 Kings 19:15–21 and Mark 1:16–20

Before Elijah ever reaches the field, God tells him to appoint Elisha as his successor. God also tells Elijah that seven thousand others among his people have remained faithful. Elijah feels alone, but God has been at work where Elijah cannot see it.

Elisha is going about his ordinary life, both hands on the plow and eyes on the work in front of him. Elijah comes over, throws his cloak across Elisha's shoulders, and walks away. The gesture is an invitation to leave the plow and follow him into the work God has called him to.

God's call can interrupt an ordinary day. Elijah does not make a speech. Elisha has to decide what to do with what just happened.

Elisha runs after Elijah and asks to say goodbye to his parents. Then he returns to his oxen, slaughters them, and uses the wood from his plow to cook the meat. He feeds the people and goes with Elijah. It is a costly yes. First Kings 19 ends with Elisha going with Elijah as his assistant. He has been called to be a prophet, and his first step is to serve.

Jesus called Simon and Andrew while they were fishing for a living. He called James and John while they were working in the boat with their father. Jesus met them in ordinary work and invited them into a new life with him.

Jesus is the one we follow. He often uses somebody farther along to help us take the next step. That could be a mentor, a group leader, or a trusted friend you can ask an honest question. God called Elisha, and Elijah helped him take his first steps. Who is helping you learn to follow Jesus?

ASK YOURSELF

- Where in my ordinary life might God be trying to get my attention?

- What habit or fear is keeping me from taking the next step with Jesus?
- Who has been ahead of me with God, and how have I responded to them?
- What would it look like this week to take one step toward someone farther along than I am?

YOUR NEXT STEP

Write down one person ahead of you in following Jesus. If you already have someone, send them a short thank-you. If you do not, ask a group leader or pastor to help you find one person to walk with.

PRAY

Father, I do not want to miss you in the middle of ordinary life. Show me what I need to leave, and give me courage to follow. Lead me to someone ahead of me, and help me say yes. Amen.

DAY 2

He Used to Pour Water

READ SLOWLY

2 Kings 3:11 and 1 Thessalonians 2:8

After Elisha follows Elijah, he almost disappears from the story. No instant promotion. No public platform. No chapter explaining everything Elijah taught him. We simply know Elisha stayed close. He learned. He served. He grew.

Years later, when one of the king's officers identifies Elisha, he remembers him as Elijah's assistant. The Hebrew wording, noted in the NLT footnote to 2 Kings 3:11, gives us the picture: Elisha used to pour water on Elijah's hands. Long before kings knew Elisha as a prophet, he had left the field to serve. The Bible does not tell us everything that happened during those years. It tells us enough to see that serving was part of his calling from the start.

Paul tells the Thessalonians that he and his coworkers loved them enough to share both God's Good News and their own lives. They did not only deliver information. They let people see what following Jesus looked like up close.

We have more Christian content available than any believers in history. Podcasts, sermons, books, Bible apps, and social media clips. But information cannot look you in the eye and ask where you have been. A podcast cannot notice the strain in your marriage or sit beside you in a hospital room. Content can teach truth. Only a person can walk through life with you.

We can collect sermons for years while nobody knows what is happening inside us. One hour on Sunday cannot carry your whole spiritual life. Sunday can be a powerful moment. God can speak. Something can change. But Sunday is meant to send you into a week with God, not replace your week with God.

If you are looking for more, start with the time you already have Monday through Saturday. Open the Bible. Pray. Sit with God. Then let somebody into what is happening in your life. Following Jesus personally was never supposed to mean following him privately.

ASK YOURSELF

- Where have I been trying to grow mostly through content instead of through people?
- Who actually knows what is happening inside me right now?
- What would it look like for me to share my life, not just my opinions or my Sunday self?
- Where do I need a circle this season, not only a row?

YOUR NEXT STEP

Reach out to one person today. Send a text, ask to grab coffee, or be honest in one sentence about how you are actually doing. If you are not in a group, take one step toward one this week.

PRAY

Jesus, I do not want to follow you only in private. Thank you for people who share their lives, not just their knowledge. Show me who to walk with, and help me become that kind of person for somebody else. Amen.

DAY 3

Close Enough to See

READ SLOWLY

2 Kings 2:1–6 and Proverbs 27:5–6

Elisha is no longer a stranger in a field. He has followed Elijah and served him. Now the Lord is about to take Elijah, and the two men are walking together one last time.

Three times Elijah tells Elisha to stay behind. Three times Elisha says he will not leave him. Elisha cannot keep Elijah from being taken away, but he can walk with him as far as he is able.

That picture makes me ask who I have let close enough to see how I am really doing. Proverbs gives us another reason that kind of closeness is important: a friend who loves you can tell you the truth when you need to hear it.

I have people like that in my life. Mentors and elders who know my heart, warn me about drift, and speak truth. After a jiu-jitsu class, I asked our black belt instructor what I needed to work on. I expected him to talk about technique. He looked me in the eyes in front of the class and said, “Your pride is your biggest liability.” He told me I stay in comfortable positions where I know I can win. If I want to grow, I have to let people put me where I am weak and uncomfortable. Make the goal growth, not winning.

I was floored because he was right. What he gave me was a gift to my jiu-jitsu, my character, my marriage, and my parenting. We need people close enough to see our blind spots and brave enough to speak. There are men in this church I have asked, “If you ever see me drifting here, call me on it.”

Proverbs 27 does not give people permission to be harsh, controlling, or cruel. It describes correction from a sincere friend. Trust matters. Love tells the truth with kindness and gives the other person room to hear it and respond.

ASK YOURSELF

- Who in my life is close enough to see the real me?
- Where do I stay in comfortable positions so I do not have to face my weakness?
- Have I invited anyone I trust to tell me the truth if they see me drifting?
- Who might need me to stay with them through a hard mile?

YOUR NEXT STEP

Ask one person who has earned your trust: “If you see me drifting, will you tell me?” If someone you know is hurting, ask what would help this week. Then follow through on what you offer.

PRAY

Father, I need people who love me enough to tell me the truth. Give me humility to hear it, and courage to offer it with kindness. Help me stay with the people you have given me, even when it gets hard. Amen.

DAY 4

Where Is the Lord, the God of Elijah?

READ SLOWLY

2 Kings 2:9–14 and 2 Timothy 2:2

Across the Jordan, Elijah asks Elisha what he can do for him before he is taken away. Elisha asks for a double share of his spirit. That language echoes the firstborn’s share of an inheritance in Deuteronomy 21:17. Elisha is asking to carry on Elijah’s work. Elijah’s answer makes clear that this is not simply his to hand over.

While they are walking and talking, horses and a chariot of fire appear. The chariot does not carry Elijah away. It separates them, and Elijah is taken up in a whirlwind. Elisha sees his mentor leaving and cries, “My father! My father!” He tears his clothes in grief. Sometimes life does not let us finish grieving before responsibility is placed in our hands.

Elisha picks up the cloak Elijah left behind and walks back to the Jordan. He strikes the water and asks, “Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah?” The river parts again. Elijah is gone, but God is not.

Some of you know that feeling. The person who helped you recognize God is gone. You can miss them and still trust that God is with you. The work God began through them did not end when they left. You can pass on what they gave you, and you can trust God with what you may never see finished.

Amy and I have a neighbor who lost his wife. After weeks of simple hellos, I went back and invited him to be part of my people at The Orchard. We ended up at his table. I do not know what his wife prayed. I know God gave me a neighbor, and I am learning to be his friend.

We cannot promise the exact outcome we imagine or force God’s timing. We can pray, obey what God puts in front of us, and entrust people to him after our part is finished.

Paul tells Timothy to pass on what he heard from Paul to trustworthy people who can teach others. Paul, Timothy, the people Timothy teaches, and the people they will teach. Four generations in one

verse. The gospel was never supposed to stop with Timothy. Elijah is gone, but God is not. The work can outlive the worker.

ASK YOURSELF

- Who helped me recognize God, and what did they pass on to me?
- Is there a prayer I have been praying for years that I may not see answered in my lifetime?
- Where might God be asking me to pick something up and keep walking?
- Who could I begin preparing, the way Elijah prepared Elisha?

YOUR NEXT STEP

Thank one person who helped you recognize God, even if you can only thank God for them now. Then pray again for one person you love who does not yet know Jesus. Ask God to send people into their path, and trust him with what you cannot control.

PRAY

Lord, thank you that you remain when the people I leaned on are gone. I trust you with the prayers I have not seen answered. Show me what to pick up and who to walk with, so the work you began does not stop with me. Amen.

DAY 5

Come Sit With Me

READ SLOWLY

Matthew 28:18–20 and John 1:43–46

Near the end of Elisha's life, a king cries the same words Elisha once cried over Elijah: "My father! My father!" The words that once came from Elisha now come from someone standing beside him. It makes me wonder who might see Jesus more clearly because we made room for them.

After the resurrection, Jesus sends his followers to make disciples of all nations. He tells them to baptize people and teach them to live what he taught. Then he promises to be with them. We can invite somebody because Jesus has already drawn near to us, and we can keep walking with them because he has not left us to do it alone.

Philip understood the invitation in the simplest way. After Jesus found him and said, "Come, follow me," Philip went and found Nathanael. Nathanael had questions and doubts. Philip did not try to win an argument. He said, "Come and see for yourself."

So think about who gets a place in your week. Who is at your table? Who do you make time for? Next Sunday is a big week at The Orchard, and it is a good chance to say four words: "Come sit with me." If they come, sit with them. If they say no, keep being their friend. Either way, make room for them again next week.

An invitation to church is not the whole mission Jesus gave us. It can be a doorway. Making disciples includes sharing life, helping people know Jesus, teaching them to obey him, and welcoming them into his community.

And let somebody walk with you. If you are new to faith, you need somebody ahead of you whose life you can watch, someone you can ask questions, pray with, and learn from. If you have followed Jesus for years, you have spent years receiving, learning, falling, growing, and discovering grace. You have something to give. It may be time to lead, host, or serve with children or teenagers who need adults who love them. It may be time to listen, pray, show up, and help somebody younger recognize Jesus. Some of you simply need to step into a group where people know your name and your story.

The work God gives us is bigger than any one of us. Elisha needed somebody ahead of him, and he had something to pass on. You might need both this week. Who can help you follow Jesus? Who might see Jesus more clearly if you opened your life a little?

ASK YOURSELF

- Who could I invite to sit with me this Sunday?
- What is making it hard for me to send that text?
- Where am I still trying to follow Jesus alone?
- If I have followed Jesus for a while, what do I have to give, and who might need it?

YOUR NEXT STEP

Send the text today: “Come sit with me next Sunday.” Then choose one way to keep showing up for that person, whatever they say. Take one step toward letting somebody walk with you, too. Write down what you decided and tell one person who can pray with you.

PRAY

Jesus, thank you for coming near and inviting me to follow you. Help me make room for someone this week and keep showing up after the invitation is behind us. Give me the humility to ask for help and the patience to walk with someone at their pace. Amen.