

Elijah/Elisha – Standing Alone

Week 8 – The Cloak

Transition: Last week, we see how the legacy of Ahab carried on through his son, Ahaziah. When Ahaziah got injured in an accident, he sought Baal for knowledge about his recovery. Yahweh was not pleased, however, and sent Elijah to confront him. Like his father, Ahaziah discovered the hard way that a leader of God's people should seek God first.

Context: This week we will be looking into when Elijah's ministry/calling as prophet of Yahweh gets passed on to Elisha. As we saw earlier in this study, Elijah, although always remaining true in his service to Yahweh, had reached a point where he was ready for someone else to take over his role. And God, in honoring Elijah's desire, picked Elisha.

Opening Questions:

- Think of an organization that had a leadership change (that you experienced/witnessed). How well was the leadership transferred? What helped to make the transfer successful? How could it have been improved?
- Have you ever discipled anyone? Who initiated the discipleship process? What characteristics do you look for in a disciple? What did you in discipling him/her?

Scripture/Storying: 2 Kings 2:1-18

Discipleship Questions:

- What is your overall reaction to this passage? What impression does it make on you and why?
- Why does Elijah continually tell Elisha to stay put whenever the LORD sends him somewhere else? What do you make of Elisha's continual disregard of this request? Does this have any meaning for your life today? If so, how?
- What is the point of "the sons of the prophets" continually telling Elisha that the LORD will be taking his master Elijah that day? Why does Elisha tell them to keep quiet?
- What is the significance of Elijah's parting of the river Jordan? What impression would this have made on Elisha? ...on Elisha when he did it himself later? ...on the prophets that witnessed it? Why is this mentioned in the story?
- Why is symbolically "passing on a cloak" important for a church/ministry leadership transition? What factors need to be taken into account to do it in a way that truly honors God?
- Why do you think Elisha asks for a double portion of the spirit that was on Elijah? How would he know if God granted his request? What do you think it means, and is it something that Christians should ask for today? Why or why not?
- Does Elijah's going up in a whirlwind to heaven alive have any special spiritual significance? If so, what?
- Why do you think the sons of the prophets continued to look for Elijah? What did this act serve?
- What is the Holy Spirit teaching you through this story? How does it impact the way you think and live?

Prayer time: This week we are praying for Knoxville Internationals Network (KIN), a ministry Providence supports.

- Pray for more volunteers to serve as LaMPs (Language and Mentoring Partners) and Embrace groups as KIN serves more new immigrant arrivals.
- Praise for 27 students representing 5 churches who completed ELL Certification Training. Pray for blessing upon the students as they start their own ELL programs.