



## Unit .13

### Session .03

# The Gifts of God's Power

## Scripture



## 1 Kings 19:19-21; 2 Kings 2:6-15

**19** So he departed from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen in front of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and cast his cloak upon him. **20** And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah and said, “Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you.” And he said to him, “Go back again, for what have I done to you?” **21** And he returned from following him and took the yoke of oxen and sacrificed them and boiled their flesh with the yokes of the oxen and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and went after Elijah and assisted him. ... **6** Then Elijah said to him, “Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. **7** Fifty men of the sons of the prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. **8** Then Elijah took his cloak and rolled it up and struck the water, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, till the two of them could go over on dry ground. **9** When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Ask what I shall do for you, before I am

taken from you.” And Elisha said, “Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me.” **10** And he said, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you, but if you do not see me, it shall not be so.” **11** And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. **12** And Elisha saw it and he cried, “My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” And he saw him no more. Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces. **13** And he took up the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. **14** Then he took the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and struck the water, saying, “Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah?” And when he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over. **15** Now when the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho saw him opposite them, they said, “The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha.” And they came to meet him and bowed to the ground before him.

**Is there something in your life you need to abandon to follow God's call?**

**What is something you have given up in order to follow Jesus wholeheartedly?**



## 99 Essential Doctrines

### Mission of the Church

The church is a sign and instrument of the kingdom of God, a people united by faith in the gospel announcement of the crucified and risen King Jesus. The mission of the church is to go into the world in the power of the Spirit and make disciples by proclaiming this gospel, calling people to respond in ongoing repentance and faith, and demonstrating the truth and power of the gospel by living under the lordship of Christ for the glory of God and the good of the world.

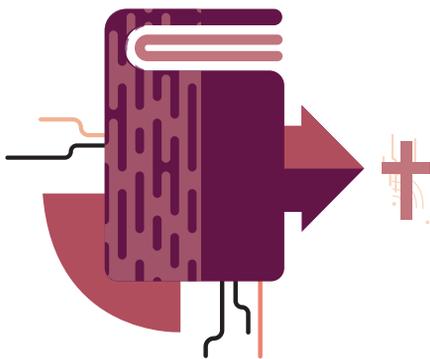
## **Main Point**

**God empowers His people  
to carry out His mission.**

**What are some ways we are called to carry on the work of the gospel in our own day and age?**

**What do we learn from Elijah and Elisha about the necessity of living out our faith by the power of God?**

**As we see the whole story of Scripture unfold, why does it inspire us to worship and trust our God?**



## Christ Connection

When Elisha succeeded the prophet Elijah, he asked for the same spirit that was in Elijah to be given to him. God granted Elisha's request and revealed His presence through a miracle. Years later when Jesus prepared His followers to begin their ministry, He instructed them to wait for the Holy Spirit, who came upon them and confirmed His presence in miraculous ways.



## Head

What can we learn about the importance of godly relationships as we consider the lives of Elijah and Elisha?

Who is like an Elijah to you? Who is your Elisha?



## Heart

Read Luke 9:57-62. What are the similarities between this passage and the calling of Elisha?

Why do you think Jesus didn't agree to the request in Luke 9:61 to go say good-bye before following Him?

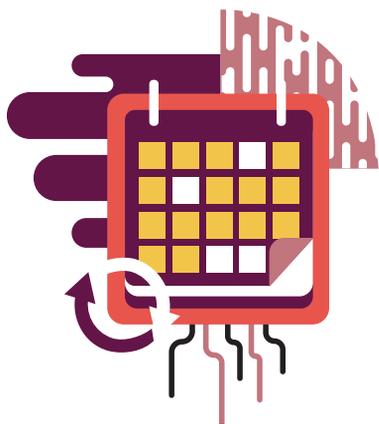


## Hands

What lessons do we learn from this account about the importance of passing on the truth of God's Word to the next generation?

How can you pass God's truth on to the next generation?

# Daily Devotions



Day 1

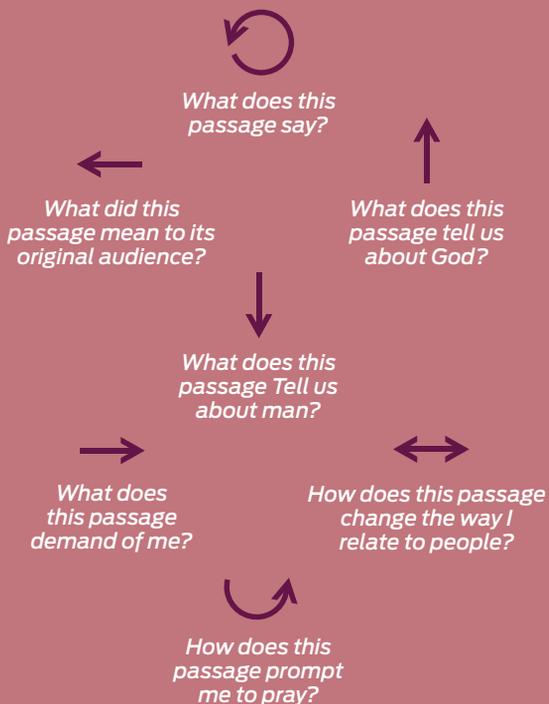
## 1 Kings 19:19-22

Never forget the cost of discipleship and the importance of having godly relationships in your life. Both of these essentials are expressed in this passage.

We see Elisha's total abandonment of all things to follow this prophetic calling. The call to follow Jesus will also involve sacrificing certain things. It's a privilege to follow Jesus, but it's also costly. But every true saint that has followed Jesus for years can testify that the reward makes the sacrifice look like a small thing, because Jesus is better than everything.

Then we also read in verse 21 how Elisha arose, followed Elijah, and assisted him (v. 21b) – a picture of intimacy and companionship. In 2 Kings 2:12, Elisha called Elijah “father,” indicating the intimacy the two shared. Elisha was like an intern, who apparently did some menial tasks, like washing the hands of Elijah (2 Kings 3:11). But this relationship had mutual benefits. Remember, Elijah had previously been isolated and discouraged. But now he received the blessing of being with Elisha and preparing him for the work ahead.

### The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



**Who are the people in your life that bring you spiritual refreshment? Pause to thank God for them.**

# 2 Kings 1:1-18

Ahaziah continued in the evil ways of his wicked father, Ahab. He had seen the gracious and harsh acts of God toward Ahab, and yet he followed in the evil path of his father anyway. The apple hadn't fallen far from the tree, as this passage highlights.

When parents detest God or minimize Him they shouldn't be surprised when their children do the same. When we passively and implicitly teach our children that God isn't important, our children will live it out. Parents who inadvertently teach their children that the world revolves around them by regularly skipping corporate worship for other things shouldn't be surprised when later in life they don't see the local church as a big deal. Children will be influenced by what they have been taught, whether it was explicit or implicit.

**What are some simple but important ways you can seek discipleship from the authority figures in your life?**

# 2 Kings 2:1-12a

In an act that is representative of his kingdom, King Ahaziah essentially fell over a banister and was seriously injured to the point that he didn't know whether he would live or die (v. 2a). Ahaziah was living out what was said of him in 1 Kings as he walked in the ways of his father, serving Baal. The king, like his kingdom, was hurting.

Ahaziah decided to look outside of Israel for an answer. Mount Carmel hadn't convinced him that Yahweh was strong and Baal was impotent and sleeping, and so he searched for another god.

We can all be tempted to look elsewhere. It could be overt like horoscopes and palm readers. Or it can be less clear like trusting Freud for counseling, prosperity teachers for theology, or alcohol, drugs, or food as a coping mechanism. It could be turning to work for satisfaction and meaning, or to weightlifting because we are obsessed with our looks. It could be turning to immoral sex for fulfillment. We live in a world that will turn almost anywhere for relief but doesn't want to turn to a God that demands our all.

**In a time of crisis, what substitute gods are you tempted to look to?**

# 2 Kings 2:12b-25

God takes violation of the First Commandment very seriously. Ahaziah had belittled Yahweh, essentially suggesting that there is no God in Israel or that He is impotent and less powerful than Baal-zebub. Amazingly, God sent Elijah to deliver a message. God wasn't done pursuing Israel or her wayward kings, and this was an act of mercy, like a doctor telling someone they are sick. The death notice was issued as the messenger returned to the sick king.

Tragically, Ahaziah's responded by sending his army to detain the prophet, and in so doing, like his father, he sought to control the word of the prophet (v. 9). The intended goal was foolish, as they tried to bring the word of God under human control. Yahweh would again send fire to validate His prophet and judge the idolaters when these armies came to liquidate Elijah.

We see here the folly of failing to seek the Lord and to listen to His Word.

**How do you see the severity and the kindness of God in this passage?**

# 2 Kings 4:1-44

Here we find one of the most fascinating and exciting portions of 2 Kings. We finished the story of Elijah in 2 Kings 2. Elijah was gone, but his ministry wasn't. It continued, particularly through the life of his successor, Elisha.

But Elisha not only reminds us of his mentor. As the privileged readers of the Old and New Testaments, we also see that Elisha foreshadowed the ministry of Jesus. Elisha's ministry was a Messiah-like ministry. In fact, Elisha's ministry is closer to the ministry of Jesus than Elijah in some ways, especially in the degree of compassion that he demonstrated. Like Jesus, Elisha had compassion on those in need: a widow, a barren woman, a dead son, a hungry multitude, a leper, and those in difficulty (4:1-6:7).

**How do you see both the tender pastoral side of Elisha along with his strong prophetic traits in 2 Kings 4?**