

## “Let Go of the Past; Embrace the Future”

2 Kings 2:1-14

Sunday, December 3, 2017

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step. If you're leading a group through this guide, don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick out those questions

that will stir up conversation and action among your group. ~ Pastor Matt

### KEY THOUGHT

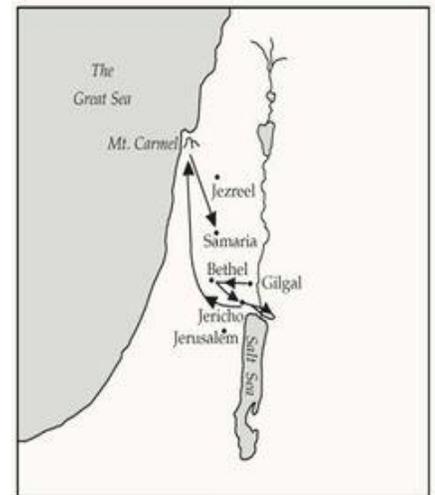
Our lives are shaped by the people around us, and we help to shape the lives of people around us—for better or worse—our lives *will* make a difference

### OPEN

- If you knew beyond a shadow of a doubt that today was going to be your last day on earth, what would you do? Where would you go? How would you spend your last hours?
- What's one idea from the message that really stood out to you? Why did this idea grab your attention? (Read 2 Kings 2:1-14)

### DISCUSSION – ROAD TRIP OF ELIJAH AND ELISHA

- **Gilgal—a Place of Beginnings (Vs 1).** Where did you first take steps of faith in Christ?
- **Bethel—a Place of the Consecration (2-3).** We know Bethel represents a place of surrender. Share about that process for you as the years have gone by. How do we model this to someone else?
- **Jericho—a Place of Past Victories (4-5).** The Christian life is often portrayed in the Bible as a battlefield. How is our spiritual life a battle? How do we wage this battle? Can we win?
- **Jordan—a Place of Crossing Over (6-7).** Read Matthew 10:28. Is there a place in your life where you had to die to selfishness?



The journeys of Elijah and Elisha

So Elijah's travels show us something of the progression of the normal Christian life. First, we all must have that Gilgal experience. That is, there must be that time of beginnings when we meet the Lord in a personal way. Then, as we grow in the Lord, we come to that Bethel time of our walk with Jesus, where we learn to walk in dependence upon the Lord. It is the place of maturity. Jericho reminds us that in this life we live as soldiers in a daily war against the world, the flesh and the devil. Eventually, we will face our own Jordan. We will come to the end of our journey just as Elijah did. When we do, will we be able to say as Paul said, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful" (2 Tim. 4:7)? - Pastor Bill

- Elisha asks to inherit a 'double the portion' of Elijah's spirit. Elijah made such an impact on Elisha's life that he wanted to go beyond being 'just like him.' Reflect on the people in your life that you have influence over. Do you want them to have more than you had? To go further and accomplish more than you did? Do you think your life is a reflection of this desire?
- Read 2 Kings 2: 12-14. Elisha watched Elijah be taken up to heaven. He was obviously heartbroken and not rejoicing in his new role as a prophet. But he immediately steps into his new

role by performing the same miracle Elijah had. The waters were parted. God showed that He was with Elisha. How willing would you be to live your life 'all in' as Elisha did? Does the idea that living this way could change the lives of those you influence inspire you? Share your answers with the group.

### **NEXT STEPS**

- Take some time to quietly reflect on the people in your life that you have influence over.
- Ask yourself who is your successor? Who are you pouring into? Are you discipling your children so that they will EXCEED you?
- Pray and ask God to give you a heart to follow Him in a 'burn the plow' way so that you can leave a legacy that makes someone want a double portion of the faith that you have.
- If you feel that changes in your life need to be made, pray to God and ask Him for the strength to make them.

*"The greatest legacy one can pass on to one's children and grandchildren is not money or other material things accumulated in one's life, but rather a legacy of character and faith." Billy Graham*