**1. Motivate**

What words of wisdom do you treasure from someone you love and trust?

* a guidance counselor who encouraged me
* a grandparent who said I would be good at a particular skill
* people who declared their belief in me by helping me go to college
* a special blessing prayed over the two of us as we started married life
* a tip as a new teacher, “Don’t smile until Christmas”
* an uncle who shared his secret fishing location
* the teacher who finally made a certain mathematical concept crystal clear
* a neighbor who told us how to grow the prettiest roses
* the stockbroker who said, “Buy low and sell high”

**2. Transition**

We all need guidance and advice as we grow into maturity.

* Today we see that role of mentoring in the lives of Elijah and Elisha
* We are similarly called to lead others to serve the Lord.

A video introduction is available. View it at <https://watch.liberty.edu/media/t/1_l17jbwer> If no wi-fi where you teach, best to download to your computer from <https://tinyurl.com/4h4k52xc>

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 Lead Others to Follow

Listen for the call of a prophet.

1 Kings 19:19-21 (NIV) So Elijah went from there and found Elisha son of Shaphat. He was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen, and he himself was driving the twelfth pair. Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak around him. 20 Elisha then left his oxen and ran after Elijah. "Let me kiss my father and mother good-by," he said, "and then I will come with you." "Go back," Elijah replied. "What have I done to you?" 21 So Elisha left him and went back. He took his yoke of oxen and slaughtered them. He burned the plowing equipment to cook the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out to follow Elijah and became his attendant.

What evidence do we see in these verses that indicate Elijah had either recovered from his discouragement or had, as the Lord would have him, decided to move forward to be a faithful servant even when discouraged?

* in previous verses God gave him three tasks
* now we see him up and away to take care of business
* apparently this was a considerable journey, so he didn’t dilly-dally, he was up and gone

What positive message for us is seen in his going to Elisha?

* Elijah was obedient
* he might have been tired and previously discouraged, but now he has something positive to do
* when you have a specific task to do, it can raise us out of lethargy and give us a purpose to go on

Identify some insights about Elisha that can be gleaned from these verses.

* looks like he was a prosperous farmer
* he was a hands-on type of person – he’s plowing the field along with eleven other servants
* Elijah’s action with the cloak got his attention and he seems to catch on to what it meant
* at the same time, he had a sense of appropriate action towards his family

What did Elisha do that symbolized his acknowledgment of the gravity of the call of God on his life?

* the slaughtering of the oxen and the burning of the wooden equipment speaks of a definite separation from his previous occupation
* he is definitely leaving his old life and beginning a new journey

What might one of us have to leave behind in order to follow God?

* a well-paying job
* our parents’ home
* material possessions – a car, a lovely house, financial security
* opportunity for advancement
* making a name for yourself in a particular occupation

What can we learn from Elisha’s response toward serving God?

* pay attention to God’s prompting
* serving God is a priority
* God might call us to something entirely new
* God’s will for you is the best place you can be

3.2 Serve with the End in Mind

Listen for Elijah’s departure.

2 Kings 2:6-11 (NIV) Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." And he replied, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So the two of them walked on. 7 Fifty men of the company of the prophets went and stood at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha had stopped at the Jordan. 8 Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground. 9 When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?" "Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit," Elisha replied. 10 "You have asked a difficult thing," Elijah said, "yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours--otherwise not." 11 As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind.

Why might Elijah have urged Elisha to stay in place rather than travel with him?

* he saw coming events that would be difficult
* he might want to test Elisha to see if he was really willing to follow God’s leading
* he didn’t want to see Elisha hurt or discouraged

What does Elisha’s refusal say about his commitment to his mentor and to the Lord? Why do you suppose the younger prophet refused to be elsewhere when his master was taken by the Lord?

* he is not a quitter
* he is in this for the long haul
* he is determined to follow God’s will
* he doesn’t want to miss anything God has for him
* tough lessons learned will be a great help in the future
* maybe he anticipates an impressive display of God’s power

When Elijah offered to do something special, Elisha asked for a double portion of Elijah’s spirit. What do you think that meant?

* spiritual power and authority
* wisdom
* spiritual strength
* God’s Spirit might empower him twice as much
* his coming ministry be twice as significant (not in popularity but in effectiveness for God)

What spiritual legacy would you like to pass on to those who will follow you?

* a hunger for God’s Word
* a realization of the power of prayer
* a desire to follow God and do His will
* trust God whatever happens in your life
* to apply God’s Truth to your everyday life

How have others challenged you to a lifestyle of faithfully following God?

* pastors who taught and preached in a powerful way
* Bible professors who taught us to study and make God’s Truths our own
* youth workers who challenged us to surrender everything to God
* children’s Bible teachers who challenged us to memorize God’s Word

How can the deeds of believers who have gone before us encourage us today?

* example of trusting God through tough times
* seeing answers to prayer in their lives
* teaching us powerful Truths from God’s Word
* we are encouraged to trust God in the same way they did
* we learn the value and joy of obeying God’s call on our lives

3.3 An Ongoing Ministry

Listen for events after the whirlwind.

2 Kings 2:12-14 (NIV) Elisha saw this and cried out, "My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!" And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them apart. 13 He picked up the cloak that had fallen from Elijah and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. 14 Then he took the cloak that had fallen from him and struck the water with it. "Where now is the LORD, the God of Elijah?" he asked. When he struck the water, it divided to the right and to the left, and he crossed over.

How did Elisha respond to what he saw?

* exclamation “my father”
* cried out “the chariots and horsemen of Israel”
* tore his own clothes – a sign of grief in Jewish culture
* he was realizing the loss of a valued friend and mentor
* he knew he was now on his own

What was the first proof that Elisha was indeed the heir of Elijah’s prophetic ministry?

* picked up the cloak fallen from Elijah
* went back to the Jordan river and struck the water
* wanted to see that God was at work in and through his life, same as Elijah’s

What’s challenging about passing leadership on to the next generation?

* if you’re the next generation, you’re never quite sure you are ready until it actually happens
* you miss the wisdom and guidance of your mentor
* initially you feel alone
* if you are the mentor, you’re not sure the mentee is ready
* you wonder if you remembered to tell him/her all the things they would need to know

How can we prepare others for our eventual departure?

* write down, journal lessons you have learned
* pray for those who follow you – children, grandchildren
* be alert for “teaching moments” where you can share important tidbits of knowledge
* give those who follow opportunities to minister and learn by doing
* maybe your church can offer classes or seminars in different spiritual ministries – teaching, praying, administering, practical helps

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

Application

List.

* Consider the legacy you want to leave for God and list actions you will take toward that goal.
* Serve with the end in mind.

Encourage.

* Choose one new believer you can encourage.
* Cultivate a relationship of pouring your faith and wisdom into his or her life.

Mentor.

* Evaluate how you can cultivate new leaders in a ministry where you now serve.
* Begin intentionally training them to reproduce your work or replace you in your role.

Fallen Phrases Puzzle

Ain’t that somethin’! Most of them letters fell straight down. Replacing some letters is easy to figure out, like where there’s only one blank in that column. Look for two or three letter words and figure what two or three letters in those columns make a sensible word. Watch out for the punctuation marks. It’s an important quote about working with a mentor, so you’ll want to make sure you figure it out. If you need help, go to <https://tinyurl.com/4h4k52xc> where there are even more fun filled Family Activities

