**1. Motivate**

What is the most interesting invitation you have received?

* handwritten from a child

A video introduction to the Bible study is available. View it at <https://tinyurl.com/ysv7hkv3> . If you have no wi-fi where you teach, it is best to download the video file to your computer from <https://tinyurl.com/ye25d9t8>

* fancy with raised printing
* from someone really important
* funny card
* a singing invitation
* an email with animation and music
* was hidden in multiple layers of envelopes

**2. Transition**

Today we look at an invitation Elisha received.

* Just with like Elisha, God invites us to join Him in His work.

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 Respond with Obedience

Listen for the response to an invitation.

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.

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

How is Elisha’s calling similar to Jesus’ calling of His disciples in the New Testament?

* this was a “follow me” recruitment
* Elisha was given an opportunity and challenge to do God’s work
* he up and left, just like the disciples

Elisha burned his plow and sacrificed his oxen, symbolizing a complete break from his old life. What are some things in our lives that someone might need to totally set aside in order to fully follow God’s calling?

* 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
* give up some or all of the time spent on one’s hobby

What was a situation where you felt called by God to do something that required sacrifice? How did you respond?

* help with kids’ Sunday school
* sing in the choir
* play in the church orchestra/worship team
* be on a committee
* run the Sunday school Christmas pageant
* help print the weekly church bulletin
* work with a children’s ministry the AWANA program or VBS

What can we learn from Elisha’s response toward serving God? What steps can we take to ensure we are ready to respond when God calls us to serve Him in a new way?

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

How does this passage illustrate the idea of discipleship and mentorship in following God?

* Elijah didn’t just say, “I’m retired now, you go be the prophet”
* took him along to demonstrate
* gave him opportunity to be a helper
* then when Elijah did leave, Elisha was experienced and ready to continue

3.2 Boldly Ask for God’s Presence

Listen for a dramatic exit.

2 Kings 2:7-11 (NIV) 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.

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)

How does Elisha’s request for a double portion challenge us to seek greater spiritual growth and responsibility?

* he saw some of the potential of how God might bless his ministry
* could have referred to the fact that the first male child received 2/3 of the total inheritance from the parent … double what all the rest combined received
* he saw Elijah’s ministry as something that was worth serving the Lord
* wanted to follow God’s plan with no reserve

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

3.3 Rely on God’s Power

Listen for an affirmation.

2 Kings 2:12-15 (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. 15 The company of the prophets from Jericho, who were watching, said, "The spirit of Elijah is resting on Elisha." And they went to meet him and bowed to the ground before him.

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 apprentice 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

How can we be sure that God equips us for the roles He calls us to, just as He equipped Elisha?

* we have the presence of God’s Holy Spirit living within us
* what God calls us to, He will prepare us for
* we can volunteer for various ministries in your church
* the one that God seems to use the most is probably your Spiritual Gift
* and that is likely what God is equipping you for
* Ethel Waters who often sang for Billy Graham crusades said, “God don’t sponsor no flops.”

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

Application

Confess.

* Pray and ask God to reveal to you any excuses you have
* used regarding God’s call upon your life and serving Him.
* Confess and repent from them.

Assess.

* Complete a spiritual gift assessment.
* You can download one from lifeway at <https://tinyurl.com/ms6hwuu2>
* Ask God to use it as a guide towards serving Him.

Express.

* Speak to your pastor or a staff person at your church about your spiritual gifts.
* Inquire about opportunities to become involved in God’s work through the church.



Word Search Puzzle



Humph! Firey chariots, indeed. That’s what you’ll get right out of here if you don’t find these words. You know the drill … they go right, down, and diagonal. You’re getting a break this time, no backwards words. That other class says they can find more words than you do. Well, it’s up to you. Humph! No pressure. Extra book reports for the losers. ☹ Help for wimps is available at <https://tinyurl.com/ye25d9t8> Or you can go for the crossword puzzle.