



Main Idea:

A Faith That Works.



Key Verse: 2 Kings 2:12-15

¹² As Elisha watched, he kept crying out, “My father, my father, the chariots and horsemen of Israel!”

When he could see him no longer, he took hold of his own clothes, tore them in two, ¹³ picked up the mantle that had fallen off Elijah, and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. ¹⁴ He took the mantle Elijah had dropped, and he struck the water. “Where is the Lord God of Elijah?” he asked. He struck the water himself, and it parted to the right and the left, and Elisha crossed over.

¹⁵ When the sons of the prophets from Jericho who were observing saw him, they said, “The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha.” They came to meet him and bowed down to the ground in front of him.

Set it up:

Before family devotion, look through the closets in your home to see if you can find any “hand-me-down” clothes, or clothing that belonged to one member of the family and now belongs to a different member. Gather a few pieces of clothing like this and bring them with you. Then ask the family to identify who the owner is of each piece of clothing. Explain that this might be a difficult question because the clothing has been worn by multiple people and passed from one to another. Transition to today’s part of the story. Explain that in the story, too, we will see a piece of hand-me-down clothing. In this case, though, the clothing represented something far greater than the person who owned it.



Explain:

Elijah had gone up to heaven, but he had left behind a piece of clothing. His mantle, which was a kind of cloak, had fallen off, and this was a sign to Elisha. Elisha had asked for a double share of the spirit of Elijah, knowing he would need the power and presence of God if he were to be the next prophet. As a symbol of the transition, the mantle was left behind and then passed to Elisha who put it on.

Like Elisha, when we choose to follow Jesus we receive a new mantle, the Holy Spirit. We must have God’s spirit in us if we are to accomplish anything worthwhile for God. And God does not withhold any of His Spirit; we have total access to God’s Spirit. For us as Believers, the question is not whether we have the Spirit (we do); it’s whether we are going to obey God by surrendering to the influence of the Spirit in our lives.



Questions:

What symbolized the transition from Elijah to Elisha?

What spirit do we need to accomplish work for God?

What do you think it means to surrender to the work of the Holy Spirit?



Prayer:

Help us, Lord, not to hold anything back from you but instead to fully surrender ourselves to the work of the Holy Spirit.