

Notes:

Lesson

10

Elisha Asks For A Double Portion of God's Spirit

Bible Text: 2 Kings 2:1-15

Bible Truth:

We can expect God to supply the power we need to follow Him.

Lesson Aim:

To enable your students to rely on God's power as we follow Him. Pray for the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

Memory Verse:

"I can do everything through Him who gives me strength."
(Phil 4:13)

Bible Background:

Bethel was a special school for God's prophets. Most of the schools seem to have been located in Gilgal, Jericho, and Bethel. Those who attended these schools were trained to be prophets of God.

A mantle was a wraparound garment that was used both as a cloak and a clothing.

Elisha asked for a double share of Elijah's prophetic power. According to custom, the firstborn son received a double share of the father's inheritance (Gen 25:31). Elisha was to be Elijah's successor, one who would continue Elijah's work as a leader of the prophets.

Elijah was taken up to heaven without dying. He is the second person mentioned in the Bible to do so. Enoch was the first (Gen 5:21-24).

About Your Students:

Your students may still feel that God's power as displayed in the Bible is a fairy tale and impractical in today's life. This is because most of us have not seen someone rise from the dead or a terminally ill person being healed. They may have already heard many testimonies about reliance on God. In order for your students to rely on God's power themselves, it is important for us to encourage them to experience God personally. Ask them to share testimonies about God's power. Ask students who have the Holy Spirit to share their experiences. We often forget that receiving the Holy Spirit is already a manifestation of God's power. You could focus this session specifically on concerns about praying for the Holy Spirit or the fullness of it. Ask your students what hinders them from praying. Is it poor concentration or from sore knees? Discuss their issues and share with them how they might overcome those physical hindrances. Don't forget to talk about their difficulties in maintaining a life of prayer. Also, discuss their doubts, if any, about the power of the Holy Spirit or prayer.

Warm-Up:

Bring a can with a tight-fitting lid (which you can open, but the children probably can't.) Let the students try to open it. Then twist it open yourself.

What kind of power did it take to open the can? (Muscle power.) Sometimes we all have things to do that require more power than we have. Different tasks that we

have require different kinds of power. Tell me which of the following things is hardest to do.

1. Do your homework when you want to go out and play.
2. Tell your friends at school that you are a Christian.
3. Tell your parents when you've done something wrong.
4. Say no when friends want you to do something bad.

Bible Story:

God wanted to give Elijah a friend and companion, so He sent Elijah to find a young man named Elisha.

Elijah obeyed God, and traveled for many days. When he found Elisha, he was busy plowing his father's fields with oxen.

Elijah went up to him and threw his mantle over Elisha's shoulders. Elisha knew what that meant. It meant that Elijah wanted Elisha to follow him and serve God too.

So Elisha told his parents good-bye. And after a special meal, he left home to serve Elijah.

Elijah Is Ready to Be Taken Up to Heaven

The Bible doesn't say how long Elisha followed the prophet Elijah and helped him serve God. He probably followed him for years. And all that time, Elisha saw how God gave Elijah power to serve Him.

One day God told Elijah to travel to Bethel. Elijah told Elisha not to go with him, but Elisha didn't want to leave Elijah, so he went with him anyway.

When they got to Bethel, the Lord told Elijah to go on to Jericho. Again Elisha refused to leave Elijah and went with him. The company of prophets who were at Bethel drew near to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

When they got to Jericho, the Lord told Elijah to go down into the Jordan River valley. Elijah told Elisha to stay in Jericho, but Elisha was determined to stay with his teacher. The company of prophets who were at Jericho

drew near to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent." Elisha knew that God was going to do something special for Elijah that day, and Elisha wanted to be there.

When they got to the river, Elijah took his mantle, or cape, and rolled it up. (Get out a square of cloth, and show what Elijah did.) Then Elijah struck the river with his mantle, and the water divided so which allowing him and Elisha to walk over on dry land!

Elisha Asks for God's Power

After they crossed the river, Elijah asked Elisha what he wanted more than anything else. And Elisha told him, "I want a double share of spiritual power that you have. I want power to follow the Lord and serve Him."

Elijah wasn't sure, "If you see me when God takes me, then God will give you that power."

Then as they walked along, a chariot of fire suddenly appeared. Elijah was snatched away to ride in chariot, and a whirlwind took him up into heaven. Elijah didn't die at all. God took Elijah up to heaven alive! Then Elisha cried out, "Father, Father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!"

As he went up into heaven, Elijah's cloak fell to the ground, and Elisha must have wondered. "Do I really have spiritual power? Can I really follow the Lord and serve Him as Elijah did?"

Elisha Has God's Power

Elisha walked back the way he and Elijah had come. When Elisha reached the river, he rolled up the cloak and struck the water, just as Elijah had. As Elisha struck the river, he called out to the God of Elijah! And the water divided, just as it had for the great prophet Elijah!

God also gave Elisha spiritual power! Some young prophets who were watching hurried up to Elisha and bowed respectfully. "The Spirit of the Lord is with Elisha just

as He was with Elijah," they said. Now Elisha would be their leader and teacher, just as Elijah had been before.

Questions and Discussions:

God called Elisha to be a prophet just as Elijah had been. The "spiritual power" of Elijah and Elisha refers to their reliance on God for the power to do miracles. Discuss why we need "spiritual power" in our every day life.

Can you think of Bible heroes you'd like to be like? Do you know any Christians living now who'd make good heroes? Who are they? Why would you want to be like them?

(For us, "spiritual power" means reliance on God to help us serve Him and do what's right. We can rely on God for spiritual power to say no to admit it when we do wrong; to do our homework; to tell others that we follow Jesus; to help us bear the fruits of the Holy Spirit.)

Quiz:

- 1. How did Elijah choose Elisha?**
(Elijah went up to him and threw his mantle over Elisha's shoulders. Elisha knew what that meant. It meant that Elijah wanted Elisha to follow him and serve God too.)
- 2. What did Elisha do before he was called to serve God?**
(Elisha told his parents good-bye. And after a special meal, he left home to serve Elijah.)
- 3. Name two places where Elijah and Elisha had passed.**
(Bethel and Jericho)
- 4. What did Elijah do when he wanted to cross over the Jordan River?**
(Elijah struck the river with his mantle, and the water divided so he and Elisha could walk over on dry land.)
- 5. What did Elisha request from Elijah?**
(He wanted a double share of spiritual power that Elijah had.)
- 6. What did Elisha say when Elijah was taken up to heaven?**

(Elisha cried out, "Father, Father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!")

7. How do we know Elisha received power from God?

(When Elisha reached the river, he rolled up the cloak and struck the water, just as Elijah had. As Elisha struck the river, he called out to the God of Elijah! And the water divided, just as it had for the great prophet Elijah!)

8. Why was Elijah a good teacher for Elisha to follow?

(He was a good teacher for Elisha to follow because He relied on God all the time and he was a faithful worker of God.)

Bible Discovery:

Everyone Needs God's Power!

We all need God's power to help us be a victorious soldier! We can rely on the Holy Spirit and we can rely on the words of God. Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible. It is a long poem about the greatness of God's word. Use the words from the word list to fill in the blanks of this passage from Psalm 119. Let's pray and keep the words of God in our hearts at all time.

Then use the word list to fill in this Stack-a-Word puzzle. One word has been filled in to get you started. (Clue: Start with the other space that needs a 9-letter word.)

Activity:

Who Should I Imitate?

Elijah was a good role model for Elisha. Elisha imitated Elijah and wanted to serve God too. Elijah was probably Elisha's hero. How should we choose our role models? Who is your hero? Write down what kinds of qualities he/she possesses. Do they meet the following requirements?

1. He or she must be someone that fears God and loves God.
2. He or she must obey God's word.
3. He or she must have love for people.
4. He or she must want to serve God.