

1. Scripture is full of imperfect people who often start with a passion for God, only to sin and fail to live up to God's standards.
2. God has plans for the future that we don't know about. Elijah experiences this when God calls him out of his retreat in a cave.
3. After struggling with a spiritual issue, Elijah obeys God and anoints Elisha to continue the succession of prophets.
4. Elisha didn't start out the day knowing he is about to be chosen as Elijah's successor. He is willing to sacrifice wealth and the family business to follow God's call on his future.
5. It's no coincidence that the trip of Elijah and Elisha retraces the first entry into the promised land and Joshua's succession of Moses.
6. Elijah knows his time is ending, and he desires that God's work will go on uninterrupted, with or without him.
7. Elisha's request for the "double portion" of the spirit reveals two things: 1) Elijah's relationship with God is amazing. 2) Elisha is unqualified and recognizes that the task before him exceeds his human abilities.
8. Suddenly, as they stand talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire appear without warning, separating Elisha from Elijah. A whirlwind whisks Elijah to Heaven, making him the second person in ancient history to not see death.
9. Elijah's fallen mantle at Elisha's feet symbolizes the passing of the spiritual baton and the responsibility that Elisha now carries. With it, Elisha strikes the Jordan River just as Elijah did, walking across with the assurance that God is with him.
10. We all have failure in some way or another, and we are all unqualified to serve the King of Kings. Gratefully, His mercy and grace are greater than all of our shortcomings

## GREEK & HEBREW WORDS

**Mashach** (maw-shakh´) to rub with oil, to anoint; by implication, to consecrate, to paint

**Sharath** (shaw-rath´); to attend as a menial; to contribute to:— minister (unto), (do) serve(-ant, -ice), wait on

**Nakah** (naw-kaw´); to strike (severely, literally):—beat, cast forth, clap, smite

## TODAY'S WORSHIP

Banner  
Goodness and Mercy (Psalm 23)  
Goodness of God

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

At the end of your life, what is one thing you would like to be remembered for, that you “finished well” at?

In the cave, God graciously reminded Elijah that he needed to “get back in the game.”

- What does it mean to be “in the game” for our lives as Christ-followers today?
- What does it look like for your life specifically?
- If, in being honest with yourself and God, you cannot say you are fully “in the game,” what do you think God is nudging you to do to get back into it?

Out of the blue, Elisha received a commission or calling from the Lord that he needed to respond to.

- Have you ever sensed God calling you to do something different than what you were already doing? If so, what was it, and what was the outcome?

Elisha experienced the loss of his close friend and spiritual mentor Elijah.

- Share about a spiritual mentor from your life that you have been separated from (either through death or distance). What kind of impact did they have on your life?
- Are you currently intentionally and consistently mentoring someone in their spiritual growth? If so, who? If not, would you like to? What would prevent you from doing so?

Take some time together to pray for 1) those you are mentoring, 2) those who would like to be a mentor, 3) for everyone to be “in the game” and 4) to finish well.