
A Year in the Word

A Year in the Word: Part 29

Small Group Questions: Breakthrough Moments

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Read

2 Kings 2; Romans 12:18; and Galatians 6:9

Reflect

In 2 Kings 2, the prophet Elijah tells his protégée, Elisha, to leave him since he is nearing the end of his life. But Elisha steadfastly refuses at each place they travel: Bethel, Jericho, and eventually to the Jordan River. When Elijah asks what he can do for him before he is taken up to heaven, Elisha replies, “Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me.” Elijah tells him that he is asking for a difficult thing, but if Elisha witnesses him taken up to heaven, then his request will be granted. Elisha does see the chariots of fire take Elijah up to heaven. What might be some of the reasons God grants Elisha’s request? Elisha parts the river with Elijah’s cloak, “crosses over,” and becomes God’s prophet.

Pastor Josh Surratt offers ways that help set us on the road to breakthrough:

1. Make sure you finish the last season well, before you start the next.
 - a. Three times, Elijah tells Elisha to leave. Do you think Elijah was testing him? Why or why not?
 - b. Are you trying to navigate a transition right now? Or do you anticipate one soon? In what areas?
 - i. What can you do to finish well?
 - c. How do both Elijah and Elisha finish well? Explain.
 - d. Elijah takes the time to ask what he can do for Elisha. Who has taken precious time out of their lives to help you make an important transition? When have you played this role?
 - i. What blessings have you seen God give when he is put first?
2. There will often be an off-ramp just before the breakthrough.
 - a. Before a breakthrough, what has tempted you to quit?
 - b. When have you taken an off-ramp and regretted it? When have you stuck it out and been thankful for it?
 - c. Do you think all off-ramps are bad? Why or why not?
3. Count the cost before you jump in.
 - a. Do you believe that important things usually come at a cost?
 - b. Why was Elisha asking for “a double portion,” a difficult thing?
 - c. Consider what you want most. Are you willing to work hard for it? Are they the right things?
4. Take hold of your calling and get moving.
 - a. What does Elijah’s cloak symbolize?
 - b. What is Elijah’s last act, and Elisha’s first?
 - c. How tempting is it to stay where you are, and hold on to what you know?
 - d. Where is God calling you to go forward and step out in faith?

Respond: Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you?