



Passing The Torch

1 Kings 19:15-21; 2 Kings 2:1-18; Selected Scriptures

#10 in the series *Elijah—A Man Like Us*

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Theme: **God involves all believers in developing His servants.**

God chooses and equips his servants.

1. God chose and equipped Elisha to succeed Elijah. (1 Kings 19:15-21; 2 Kings 2:9-10)
2. God chooses and equips all believers for their service.
(Psalm 119:105; Mark 3:13-19; John 14:16-17, 26; 16:13; Acts 9:1-18; Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 3:4-9 see also 15:10; 12:1-30; Ephesians 2:10; 4:7-16; 1 Peter 4:10-11)

God's servants must accept and be faithful in the service He gives them.

1. Elisha accepted God's call and was faithful to it.
(1 Kings 19:19-21; 2 Kings 2:1 – 9:10; 13:14-20)
2. Every servant of God needs to accept God's call and be faithful to it.
(Numbers 12:1-8; Nehemiah 7:2; Isaiah 6:1-13; Matthew 25:14-30 see also 1 Corinthians 3:1–4:5; Acts 9:10-17; 1 Corinthians 4:17; 1 Timothy 1:21; Hebrews 3:1-6; Revelation 2:10)

Believers have a role to play in each other's ministries.

1. Preparation, mentoring.
(1 Kings 19:19-21; 2 Kings 2:1-10; Deuteronomy 3:28; Proverbs 27:17; Mark 3:14-15; Acts 9:26-31; 18:24-28; Philippians 3:17; 4:17 see also 1 Thessalonians 1:2-7 & 2:10-12; 2 Timothy 2:1-2)
2. Succession.
(1 Kings 19:16; 2 Kings 2:9-13; Deuteronomy 3:28 see also Joshua 1:1-18; Matthew 28:18-20, see also John 17:18-21; John 3:22-30)

In My Life This Week

As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.

Monday. The glimpse God gives us of Elijah and Elisha's relationship provides insight into serving Him. It is clear in the record of the mantle of leading prophet in Israel being passed from Elijah to Elisha that God, the servant and other believers are involved in developing servants and their service. Is this your view of ministry or service for God, whether you are thinking about yourself or others? Remember the truth we emphasized yesterday, *God involves all believers in developing His servants.*

Tuesday. The starting place for service is God. God chooses and equips His servants. The Biblical record tells us God chose and equipped Elisha to succeed Elijah (see 1 Kings 19:15-21 & 2 Kings 2:9-10). Have you ever moved forward in some service for God (not limited to being a part of an recognized church ministry) without seeking and relying on God's direction? God gives every believer spiritual abilities for serving Him (for example 1 Peter 4:10) which we realize and develop as we serve Him. Thank God that He calls and equips *you*, that it is not all up to you!

Wednesday. God calls and equips each of us to serve Him. We must accept His call and be faithful in that service. While it was unexpected and challenging for Elisha to be called from farming to be Israel's leading prophet, He said *Yes* to God and served faithfully. Is that the kind of attitude and commitment you have? Do you regularly ask God to keep you open to His direction for service, to be ready to say *Yes* as He directs and then to follow through and be faithful?

Thursday. God calls and equips us. We must accept His call and be faithful. As well, we have a role to play in each others' ministries. Elijah helped prepare Elisha. He mentored him. The other prophets recognized God's call on Elisha and supported him. Elijah worked with Elisha to pass the mantle to him. Sunday we also looked at these principles from other Old and New Testament passages. Review some of them (see the outline). Thank God for those who have invested in you and your service for God. Make sure you are investing in others now and in the future.

Friday – Saturday. On Sunday we plan to conclude the series on Elijah with *What Will We Remember?* Think about what we have looked at, perhaps reviewing the outlines of the last eleven weeks (the complete series is available at Pastor Lyle's website, <https://www.expositorysermons.ca/>) You could also read some of the 1 & 2 Kings sections about Elijah as part of your preparation for our time of worship together.