



## SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

EAST ABBOTSFORD CAMPUS

FEBRUARY 16, 2020

### INFO AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Northview is running many different courses this winter/spring. Those include:  
**Financial Basics 104: Understanding Taxes:** Tuesday, March 3rd; 7pm  
**DivorceCare/ DivorceCare for Kids:** 13wk seminar starting January 14th  
More information and to register see: [northview.org/courses](http://northview.org/courses)
- **Men's Retreat:** April 3-5th. Cost: \$200. Location: Rockridge Canyon.  
Register online: <https://northview.org/men>.
- Parents, save the date! There is a Northview-wide **Parenting Conference** happening April 24-25 at the Downes Road Campus. More information to come!
- The next **Selah: Prayer + Praise Night** is happening Sunday, March 1st at the Downes Road Campus, 5:30-7:00pm.
- Sign up for Northview's Newsletter at [northview.org](http://northview.org) to never miss another event.

### PRAYER REQUESTS

- Please pray for all of our Serve Team members that they would have health, grow in their love for Jesus, and find joy in the roles they are filling.
- Please pray for our East Abbotsford Community groups - that the leaders would be equipped to lead and that people all over east Abbotsford would be in Christ-centred community.

### LEADER NOTES

**Suggested Timing for a 2 hour meeting:**

**Connection:** 30 Minutes (visiting / snacks / announcements / ice breakers)

**Content:** 30 Minutes (Observation and Interpretation questions):

**Commission:** 10-15 minutes (Application questions)

**Care:** 15-30 minutes (Sharing and Prayer)

**Connection:** 15-30 minutes (visiting / snacks)

### LEADING SERMON-BASED DISCUSSIONS:

- Read the scripture passage(s) together as a group.
- Direct people back to the text if they are going on rabbit trails or talking about opinions and speculation, by asking, "Where do you see that in the text? What answer does the text provide for that question?"
- As you transition to prayer time, pray through the issues and ideas that the text brought up.

### RESOURCES FOR 1 & 2 KINGS

#### Commentaries:

Paul House, *1 & 2 Kings - New American Commentary*

Iain Provan, *1 & 2 Kings - Understanding the Bible*

Donald Wiseman, *1 & 2 Kings: An Introduction and Commentary*  
Tyndale Old Testament Commentary

August H. Konkel, *1 & 2 Kings*  
(The NIV Application Commentary)

Gavin Orland, *1 & 2 Kings: A 12-week Study*  
(Knowing the Bible)

The Gospel Coalition Course:  
*God's Big Picture*. Unit 5: The Partial Kingdom: Place and King  
[www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/gods-big-picture-tracing-storyline-bible](http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/gods-big-picture-tracing-storyline-bible)

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## Observation

This section is aimed at helping people observe the details of the text: what is written, what words or ideas are repeated and emphasized, the text's structure and how this text fits into the wider context of the book of Romans.

1. Read 2 Kings 2:1-14.
2. How does Elisha respond each time he's told to stay back while Elijah goes on ahead? How many times does he respond this way? What does this tell us about Elisha?  
*"As long as the Lord lives, I will not leave you" (v2, 4, 6) 3x (every time). Elisha is persistent in his commitment to following Elijah.*
3. What do the prophets in each location tell Elisha? How does he respond to them?  
*They prophesy that his master Elijah will be taken. He responds that he knows, but he really doesn't want to talk about it, showing that it is distressing for him.*
4. When Elijah asks what he can do for Elisha before he is taken, what does Elisha ask for?  
*For a double portion of his spirit.<sup>1</sup>*
5. How do Elijah and Elisha cross the river?  
*First Elijah hits the water with his cloak and the water parts and they walk on dry ground. The second time Elisha hits the water with Elijah's cloak and it parts and he walks over.*

## Interpretation

This section is aimed at linking the current text to other texts or to the bigger biblical narrative. If you are running out of time, feel free to skip this section.

1. In Exodus 14:10-22.  
What does God do to the Red Sea in this passage?  
*The Lord drives back the waters and they are divided, the Israelites walk through on dry ground.*

2. Read Joshua 3:7-9.  
Why will the LORD part the Jordan for Joshua the way he parted the Red Sea for Moses?  
*This is a sign that the Lord was with Joshua in the same way he had been with Moses, and that Joshua is his successor.*
3. In 2 Kings 2:14, the water parts for Elisha just as it had for Elijah. What is the significance of this?  
*God is showing he is with Elisha just as he had been with Elijah, and God has answered Elisha's request to be Elijah's successor.*
4. In these accounts in the Old Testament, as Israel's leadership changes hands, what stays the same?  
*God. He is continually at work providing messengers and leaders throughout Israel's history to bring his unchanging message to His people.*

## Application

This section is aimed at helping people apply what we have read in the text to our lives. It is intended to foster more open-ended discussion as people connect the text to their everyday life, and reflect on how it changes the way they think and act.

1. In 2 Kings 2:1-14 we learn that Elisha is very persistent to his call by continuing to follow Elijah. How does this challenge you in your persistence to the call of God in your life? Are there areas where you have been tempted to give up? How can Elisha's example of persistence help you?  
*Various Answers*
2. God continues to call his people to proclaim his word in this world. In what ways are you part of this? In what ways have you been neglecting your call?  
*Various Answers*
3. God equips Elisha by anointing him with His Spirit to enable him to do the work as Elijah's successor. How are we, as believers in Christ, equipped for the work we are called to do? How does this encourage you as you follow the call of God in your life?  
*Various Answers*

<sup>1</sup> The IVP Bible Background Commentary: Old Testament.

"By asking for a double portion, Elisha is not asking for twice as much as Elijah had, but for twice as much as any other successor would receive. This is the normal inheritance right of the firstborn, who would "carry the torch" for the family. Elisha is requesting that he receive the status as the principal successor to Elijah." -

Paul R. House, 1, 2 Kings, vol. 8, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1995), 258.

"Perhaps, then, Elisha desires both Elijah's spiritual strength and temporal responsibilities, or he may simply ask for the spiritual power to do the job he has known he would someday assume"