

Story Point: God chose Elisha to continue Elijah's work as a prophet.

God told the prophet Elijah to find a man named Elisha. Elisha would be a prophet to Israel after Elijah. Elijah found Elisha, and Elisha followed Elijah and served him.

When the time came for the Lord to take Elijah up to heaven, Elijah and Elisha traveled to Gilgal. At Gilgal, Elijah said, "Elisha, stay here. The LORD is sending me to Bethel." But Elisha said, "As long as you are alive, I will not leave you." So they went together to Bethel. At Bethel, Elijah said, "Elisha, stay here. The LORD is sending me to Jericho." But Elisha said, "As long as you are alive, I will not leave you." So they went together to Jericho.

At Jericho, Elijah said, "Elisha, stay here. The LORD is sending me to the Jordan River." But Elisha said, "As long as you are alive, I will not leave you." So they went together to the Jordan River. Elijah rolled up his cloak and hit the water with it. The river parted, and they crossed to the other side.

Suddenly, a chariot of fire with horses of fire appeared and drove between them. Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind.

Elisha watched as Elijah went away. Then he picked up Elijah's cloak and went back to the river. He hit the water, and it parted for him to cross to the other side just as it had for Elijah. The spirit that was with Elijah was now with Elisha.

Christ Connection: God gave Elisha the same spirit that was in Elijah so Elisha could carry out his mission as a prophet. Years later, Jesus told His followers to wait for the Holy Spirit. God gives believers the Holy Spirit so they can share the gospel with the world.

EXPERIENCE the Story

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

• In each blank, write a **J** for the name *Elijah* or an **S** for the name *Elisha*.

_____ found _____ plowing a field. _____ followed _____ and served him. When the time came for the Lord to take ______ up to heaven, the two prophets traveled through several towns. In each town, ______ said, "______, stay here. The Lord is sending me ahead." But ______ refused to leave ______. When they came to the Jordan River, ______ rolled up his cloak and hit the water with it. The river parted, and they crossed to the other side. ______ said that he wanted a double portion of the spirit that ______ had. Suddenly, a chariot of fire with horses appeared and drove between them. _____ went up to heaven in a whirlwind. _____ watched as _____ went away. Then he picked up ______ 's cloak and crossed back over the river. The crowd of prophets saw that the spirit was now with ______.

• What does this story teach us about God?

• How did Elisha know God's spirit was with him?

CHRIST CONNECTION

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• What was significant about the Jordan River parting for Elijah and Elisha?

• What mission does God call all believers to?

• Why is the Holy Spirit important to us?

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• Find Isaiah 42:8 in your Bible and write the words below.

• Write a prayer to God, thanking God that He allows us to be part of the mission of spreading God's message, the good news about Jesus.

READ THE WORD

Read one of the following passages each day this week:

2 Peter 1:3

□ Acts 1:8

John 20:21

Ephesians 3:16-19

Romans 15:13

Isaiah 40:28-31