



WEEK 8 DEVOTIONAL

A DOUBLE-PORTION | Gaining Spiritual Influence

RECEIVE

Slowly. Prayerfully, read and/or listen to **2 Kings 2:1–12** two times.

Before and after each reading, pray asking the Spirit of Christ to guide you into knowing and living what you are receiving from the Scriptures. Consider, what does God want you to reflect on and learn from?

REFLECT

1. This week's text focuses on a significant transition: Israel's iconic prophet, Elijah, is about to depart. Recall a difficult transition in your own life. What concerns did you have? In what ways did God bring you through that experience?
2. Share or journal about a time when your plans didn't align with God's. How do you respond when this happens?
3. Why does Elijah continue to ask Elisha to stay behind (verses 1–6)? Why did he continuously refuse? What does it tell us about each of them and their relationship?
4. What does everyone suspect about Elisha (verse 7; see 1 Kings 19:19)?
5. What does Elisha mean by "a double portion of your spirit" (verse 9; see Deuteronomy 21:17)? Is this a presumptuous request? Why does Elijah say it's a "difficult thing" (verse 10; see Numbers 11:17, 25)?

6. What do you think happened to Elijah next and why? What do the eyewitnesses think happened (verses 15–18) Why does he get special treatment (compare Enoch, see Genesis 5:24)?
7. What does Elisha mean in verse 12? How does he feel? Has he passed Elijah’s test (verse 10) or been granted the request (verse 9)? How does he “double check”?
8. Have you ever had the mantle of leadership passed onto you? What was it like? Did you feel like you could truly be yourself?
9. It is hard or easy for you to respond with more trust and faith when your plan doesn’t seem to be going as planned.
10. Whose character and faith would you like to emulate? Whose spirit would you like to inherit a double portion? In what ways do they inspire you toward Jesus?
11. Consider the social media, sports, and other voices drowning out the voices of godly influences? How can we quiet these other voices so that we can develop the faith and character Elijah demonstrated.

RESPOND

- Similar to the culture in ancient Israel, our culture is dedicated to the god of self. Journal about how you can invest more of yourself in becoming like Jesus and seeking first the kingdom of God?
- Dive deeper into the Scriptures during our weekly Sunday Connections group at 10:30 a.m. at our Oak Brook Campus.

RESOURCES

It is often helpful to know the context and a little background about the Book as it can help inform our understanding of the stories shared. Take a few minutes and watch this overview of the [Book of Kings by the Bible Project](#)

SCRIPTURE

2 Kings 2:1–12 New International Version

When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ² Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; the Lord has sent me to Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel. ³ The company of the prophets at Bethel came out to Elisha and asked, “Do you know that the Lord is going to take your master from you today?” “Yes, I know,” Elisha replied, “so be quiet.” ⁴ Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here, Elisha; the Lord has sent me to Jericho.” And he replied, “As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” So they went to Jericho. ⁵ The company of the prophets at Jericho went up to Elisha and asked him, “Do you know that the Lord is going to take your master from you today?” “Yes, I know,” he replied, “so be quiet.” ⁶ Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.” And he replied, “As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them walked on. ⁷ Fifty men from the company of the prophets went and stood at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha had stopped at the Jordan. ⁸ Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground. ⁹ When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?” “Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit,” Elisha replied. ¹⁰ “You have asked a difficult thing,” Elijah said, “yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours—otherwise, it will not.” ¹¹ As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. ¹² Elisha saw this and cried out, “My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!” And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his garment and tore it in two.