



For the last eleven weeks, we've studied the life of Elijah. Elijah lived during a time when Israel had mostly turned its back on God. Near the end of his life, he was keenly aware that God would be taking him to heaven, but not in the typical way we think of. Elijah begins his day by encouraging the prophets in two locations in Israel. This provides us with a glimpse into the changing spiritual temperature in Israel. Finally, Elijah is taken into heaven by a chariot and horses of fire. His servant and ministry partner is left there, looking at heaven as his master departs. The text teaches us that God had been raising up Elisha to fill the prophetic role when Elijah was taken to heaven.

1. Think about someone who made a significant investment in your spiritual growth. Share with your group who that person was, what they taught you, and why their investment made such a significant impact. How can you do that for someone else?
2. Read 2 Kings 2:1-6. It seems like everyone knew it would be Elijah's final day on earth. Why do you think Elijah encouraged Elisha to remain behind while he moved on to invest in the company of the prophets?
3. In 1 Kings 19:10, it appears Elijah was lonely and discouraged about the spiritual state of Israel. We just read that Elijah was investing his life into multiple companies of prophets. How can maturing in our faith change the spiritual temperature of our city?
4. Read 2 Kings 2:7-8. Elijah hits the Jordan River with his cloak, and it parts for the men to cross on dry ground. We might not see miracles like this in our lives, but share a time when you saw God do a miracle in your life.
5. Elisha makes a bold request of Elijah before he is taken into heaven (Read 2 Kings 2:9-10). Elisha could have asked for anything he wanted but chose to focus on spiritual matters. What is one request you've been praying for God to answer?
6. Read 2 Kings 2:11-12. Elisha sees Elijah taken into heaven right before his eyes in a chariot of fire. This passage prompts us to think about the hope of heaven. What hinders us from regularly thinking about the greatness of heaven?
7. Read 2 Kings 2:13-14. It seems peculiar that Elisha doesn't simply call on God himself. Share a time in your life when you cried out to God to help you in a desperate moment.
8. Close your time in prayer. Pray for strength to invite a friend to meet Jesus.