

# Prayer and Study Guide

Daily Scripture Readings – 2/24/19

**Monday** – Read I Kings 19:1-21. **Elijah Calls Elisha.** Elijah defeated the prophets of Baal in a fire contest, and then he killed all 450 of the prophets of Baal. Queen Jezebel threatened to kill Elijah, so Elijah fled for his life and sank into a deep depression. He asked God to kill him because he thought he was the only person who had remained faithful to the Lord. The Lord appeared to Elijah and ministered to him. God told Elijah to anoint Elisha to be a prophet for God. One of the most important ways we can find meaning is to share our faith in God with a younger person. Elijah sought out Elisha and began to share his wisdom and his experiences with him. Notice the way the older generation initiated this relationship with the younger generation. Don't wait for a younger person to seek you out. Seek out a younger person and pour into that person. Elisha listened to Elijah and was willing to serve and follow Elijah so that he could learn from him. Who has taken the time to mentor you? Pray for the people who have mentored you.

**Tuesday** – Read II Kings 2:1-12. **What may I do for you?** When we learn to honor God, we naturally learn to honor people. Elisha honored Elijah. Before Elijah left this earth, he asked Elijah, "What may I do for you?" Elisha asked to receive a double portion of Elijah's spirit, and because Elisha honored Elijah and learned from Elijah's wisdom and experience Elisha received a double portion of Elijah's spirit. Our younger generations need our older generations. Many times younger generations feel entitled, and because of this, younger generations overestimate what they can do in the short run but underestimate what they can do in the long haul of a faithful life. As younger generations show honor to older generations in public they will gain influence in private. Ask God to help you honor an older person who is willing to mentor you and to take time to mentor a younger person.

**Wednesday** – Read II Kings 2:13-18. **Taking up the mantle.** Elijah helped Elisha learn from him and empowered and called him to the ministry of a prophet. God values maturity. Our older generations' best days are ahead of them if they will invest in our younger generations. One of the biggest blessings our older generations can give to our younger generations is to delegate authority rather than tasks to our younger generations to help create a new generation of leaders. Elisha actively took up the mantle of Elijah and continued Elijah's ministry in a new and exciting way. The work of ministry is passed from generation to generation. Young Christians learn how to follow and serve God by spending time with long-time Christians who have served the Lord for many years. Who are you mentoring? How are you training a younger person to continue the ministry you do in a new way? Spend some time praying for our youth and our children.

**Thursday** – Read Luke 2:21-40. **Holy to the Lord.** Jesus' parents were devout. Even though they were poor, Mary and Joseph did everything they could to raise Jesus to know God's ways. They were careful to obey God and do everything for Jesus that the law required. They knew that Jesus was holy to the Lord. Take a moment to think about the huge responsibility that Mary and Joseph had to parent the Son of God. Now, think about the responsibility all of us have in the church to parent and raise the children in our church family. Working with children and youth brings some of the greatest blessings we may receive in our lives. Think about some of the ways you can make a difference in the life of a young person this year. Mary, Joseph, and Jesus returned to Nazareth where Jesus grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. Pray for God to give you wisdom and to help you share that wisdom with a young person.

**Friday** – Read Luke 2:41-45. **Parenting the Son of God.** <sup>41</sup> *Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover.* Mary and Joseph were devout, and they wanted to be the best parents they could be. They always took time to worship God, and they raised Jesus to know and worship God. Every year they made the nine day journey to Jerusalem to participate in the festival of the Passover. Every Friday night and Saturday, they observed the Sabbath. They spent time telling Jesus the stories of their faith and taking him to worship in the synagogue. Mary and Joseph faithfully modeled for us the way to raise a child to know, love, worship, and serve God. Ask God to help work through you to help the children and grandchildren in your life to know, love, worship, and serve God.

**Saturday** – Read Luke 2:45-52. **In the Father's House.** Even at a young age, Jesus knew that he needed to be in his Father's house to learn and grow closer to God. Our children and youth also need to be in Sunday school and worship to learn and grow closer to God. Jesus' parents did not always understand him, but they did their best. Jesus was the Son of God, but he obeyed the commandment to obey and honor his parents even when they didn't understand. As you pray, ask God to help you honor your parents.

**Lectionary Readings:** Genesis 45:3-15; Psalm 37:1-40; I Corinthians 15:35-50; Luke 6:27-38.

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