



Life Group Study Notes

“Bethel’s Discipleship Path: ”

Ps. James Lowe - September 9, 2018

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- Who was your favorite coach or teacher? Why?
- What was your favorite subject in school? Why?
- Who has spiritually impacted your life the most?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org

2 Kings 2:1-15 ESV Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. And Elijah said to Elisha, "Please stay here, for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. And the sons of the prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take away your master from over you?" And he said, "Yes, I know it; keep quiet."

Elijah said to him, "Elisha, please stay here, for the Lord has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. The sons of the prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take away your master from over you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know it; keep quiet."

Then Elijah said to him, "Please stay here, for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the sons of the prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his cloak and rolled it up and struck the water, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, till the two of them could go over on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you." And Elisha said, "Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me." And he said, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you, but if you do not see me, it shall not be so." And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha saw it and he cried, "My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" And he saw him no more.

Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces. And he took up the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. Then he took the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and struck the water, saying, "Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?" And when he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over.

Now when the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho saw him opposite them, they said, "The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha." And they came to meet him and bowed to the ground before him."

This historical event illustrates three basic principles designed by God to help each us fulfill the calling and purpose for our lives.

Walk with the Leader

We must be discipled by others who are walking with God. The first thing this involves is simply being around the person. We cannot receive the gift(s) God has given them, if we are not around them. Though technology gives us access to many people, it does not replace the concrete human interaction that spiritually imparts more than technology ever can.

Imitate the Leader

We must imitate and put into practice every good thing we observe in a leader. This includes their spiritual disciplines, their moral virtue, their relational skills, their spiritual anointing, their ministry practices, and more. Every person is flawed, so we will inevitably see weaknesses in a leader. But we can yet learn about the grace of God and how God still uses an imperfect person. We can even hope to grow in ways that supply what may be lacking in a leader.

Follow the Leader

We must follow the leader God has put in our lives. We must learn to submit to legitimate authority that God has given us to help us together fulfill his purposes. God will guide our lives through the opportunities provided to us through godly leaders. Bethel's Discipleship Path is how our leaders have mapped out a way for us to practically follow Jesus. The steps laid out for us will help us get to **know** God, **grow** in God, and **go** on mission with God.

Be the Leader

God has called each of us to help others follow Jesus. Bethel's Discipleship Path is not just intended to serve as a guide to help us follow Jesus, but is especially intended to serve as a guide to help us help someone else follow Jesus as well.

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the points, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.

- Do you prioritize getting around spiritual leaders? Why or why not?
- Do you prioritize getting around spiritually younger believers to help them? Why or why not?
- What steps should you take on Bethel's Discipleship Path to follow Jesus further?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Thank God for the plans he has for our lives.
- Ask God to show you some new steps he wants you to take in following Jesus.
- Ask God to show you who you should help take some new steps in following Jesus.