



Elijah and Elisha

2 Kings 2:1-15

“Hello, hello, kids!” Dr. Sominex said to the boy and girl playing a game on Professor von Himmel’s computer. “You kids haven’t seen Professor von Himmel, have you? I thought he said we were going to work on our top secret project today.”

“That’s why we are here,” the boy replied.

The girl twisted around in her chair and smiled politely. “The professor is our uncle. My name is Mary and this is my brother Ricky.”

Ricky stopped clicking the arrow keys and looked over his shoulder. “Yeah, Uncle Von Himmel said to tell you to look on his lab coat. He left a note for you.”

“Thanks, kids!” Dr. Sominex unclipped the note from the lab coat and read out loud, “I had to take a flight to Austria. While I’m away I need you to be my Elisha and take over my work on the top secret time travel project. P.S. Do not read this letter out loud because it is top secret.” Dr. Sominex looked up to see Mary and Ricky listening intently. “Oops, too late,” she said with a red-faced grin. She returned to reading the letter. “Remember where your power comes from. Love, Professor von Himmel.”

Mary twisted her brown braided hair between her fingers. “Who’s Elisha?”

“Hmm, I’m not sure,” the doctor replied. “Last time, we learned about Eli-JAH, but I’d better research this Eli-SHA. I know just where to look. Let me get the Bible out of the Toolbox!” She picked up the Bible and searched through it until she found some verses that talked about Elisha. She started reading from 2 Kings 2. “When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal.”

Ricky leaned forward, excitement lighting up his eyes. “What a way to start a story! What happened next?”

“This is exciting!” Dr. Sominex agreed. “The Bible says Elijah said, ‘Stay here; the Lord has sent me to Bethel.’ But Elisha replied, ‘As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you.’”

“What a great friend!” Mary exclaimed.

Dr. Sominex quickly read the rest of the story in the Bible and explained it to Ricky and Mary saying, “When they got to Bethel, the Lord sent Elijah to Jericho. Elisha went along with him. When they got to Jericho, the Lord sent Elijah to the Jordan River. Elisha went

along with him again. Now, everywhere the two of them went, all the other prophets would stop Elisha and tell him the Lord was going to take his master Elijah away from him. Elisha kept saying, 'I know, but let's not talk about it! Shh, it's a secret!'"

The doctor continued, "But, when they got to the Jordan River everybody was watching. They knew God was going to do something exciting and everyone wanted to see what it would be! Elijah rolled up his cloak and struck the water. Guess what happened?"

"Did God make the waters part so they could walk across on dry land?" Ricky guessed.

"That's right! The water parted just like the Red Sea!" Dr. Sominex affirmed. "Then, Elijah asked his servant Elisha, 'Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?' Elisha could have asked for anything, but guess what he asked for. He asked for a double portion of Elijah's spirit."

"Why would he ask for that? What does it mean?" Mary asked.

"Elisha wanted to serve God just like Elijah did, so he asked to be even more bold and faithful," Dr. Sominex explained. "Elijah told Elisha that if he saw him taken to heaven, he would get his wish."

"So, did Elisha get his spirit?" Ricky asked.

"Let me read what happened next," Dr. Sominex answered. "As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind."

Ricky jumped up and cheered. "That is so cool! It must have looked like this." He whirled and spun around the room.

"Whoa, Ricky! That is a whirlwind!" Dr. Sominex laughed. "When Elijah went up to heaven to be with the Lord, his cloak fell. Elisha picked it up." He grabbed Professor von Himmel's lab coat. "Let's pretend the professor's lab coat is Elijah's cloak."

Dr. Sominex started to hand Ricky the lab coat but decided it looked like a nice pillow. She bundled it up and rested her head on it. Immediately, Dr. Sominex was snoring. Ricky poked Dr. Sominex and said, "Wait, we have to finish the story!"

Dr. Sominex awakened with a jump and gave the wrinkled lab coat a quick shake. She wrapped the coat around Ricky's shoulders with a shy grin and continued. "The Bible says Elisha went right back to the shore of the Jordan River. He rolled up Elijah's cloak and struck the water with it. Guess what happened?"

"The river parted and Elisha crossed over the dry land, just like Elijah had done?" Mary guessed.

Dr. Sominex nodded. "Everyone watching that day knew God had given Elisha the spirit of Elijah."

"That's a great story!" Ricky exclaimed.

Dr. Sominex sat down at her desk and looked at Ricky and Mary. "Elisha asked for the right thing. He wanted to serve God in the same ministry Elijah did. I feel that way when I use my scientific gifts to serve God. That is my ministry! I serve Him right here in the laboratory as I research and teach others about this amazing world God has created. What about you? How would you like to serve God?"

"I love to sing," Mary said. "I would like to help people worship God by leading them in song."

"I love to build things," Ricky answered. "I would like to build homes for people who do not have a place to live."

"Those are great answers," Dr. Sominex agreed. "God gives you gifts, talents, and even people to help you serve Him. Have you kids ever looked at someone else and thought, 'I want to be like them and serve God like they do?' Maybe you want to do some of the same things as your parents, grandparents, pastor, worship leader, teachers, or folks in your church or community. Just like Elisha, you have to keep your eyes on those people to learn from them because God might be calling you to serve Him as they do, to carry on that ministry." Dr. Sominex glanced at the clock and was surprised at the time. "Oh, and speaking of carrying on a ministry, I've got to take over for Professor von Himmel and get to work on our time travel project."

"Ok," Ricky said as he and Mary jumped up and began to walk toward the door. "Thank you for the story, Dr. Sominex!" they said together.

Dr. Sominex waved as she took a seat at the table. It wasn't long before she laid her head on the table and promptly fell into a deep sleep.