

Passing the Mantle

Leader Guide

(NASB and ESV)

KINGS & PROPHETS SERIES

Course 3

(2 Kings 2–14; 2 Chronicles 21–25)

Passing the Mantle Leader Guide (NASB and ESV)
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USING LEADER GUIDES

Leader Guides are intended for you, the leader, to guide your Precept Upon Precept® and In & Out® discussions. They are designed to help you reason through the content of the lessons and to ensure you have understood what your group should have learned from their study. The guides offer effective plans for leading discussions.

The Holy Spirit is your guide as you prepare. He is the one who knows what your group needs to apply to their lives. Pray for them as they study and for yourself as you prepare to lead the discussion.

These guides can be used for either the NASB or the ESV edition of the courses. ESV words follow the NASB after a slash / or are set off with parentheses.

Leader Guides include the following:

- Lesson emphasis
- A logical order for the discussion
- Discussion questions
- Suggested visual aid(s)

Practical tips for using the Leader Guide:

- **Don't simply "do" the lesson.**
Stay with the lesson until you have a good understanding of it. This will give you a better grasp of how the Leader Guide takes you through the lesson.
- **You don't have to ask every question in the guide.**
Often one question will be covered while discussing another question so there is no reason to ask it. Your goal is not to ask every question, but to ask enough questions to make sure your group understood the lesson and to help them apply the truths to their lives.

Using the Leader Guide with In & Out


When your entire group uses In & Out

Compare an In & Out lesson with the Leader Guide. Use what relates to the In & Out lesson as a guide for the discussion. Don't teach what's not in In & Out lessons. Remember your goal in the discussion is for your group to discuss what they've learned, not for you to lecture on what you learned.

For groups studying both Precept Upon Precept and In & Out

Use the Leader Guides as designed for PUP, knowing that the In & Out assignments will be covered in the discussion. Make a note in the Leader Guide of what is not in the In & Out.

PRINTED PAGE NO.	L E S S O N S	PDF PAGE NO.
1	LESSON ONE: 2 Kings 2–4	5
9	LESSON TWO: 2 Kings 5–8	13
17	LESSON THREE: 2 Kings 8–10; 2 Chronicles 21–22	21
23	LESSON FOUR: 2 Kings 11–12; 2 Chronicles 22:10–24:27	27
27	LESSON FIVE: 2 Kings 13–14; 2 Chronicles 25	31

To locate a particular lesson in the pdf, click on  in the grey bar on the left side of the window. Bookmarks will appear for each of the lessons. Select the lesson you need.

**PASSING THE MANTLE
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 1**

Lesson emphasis:

- 2 Kings 2–4
- Elisha

NOTE: It is difficult to determine an exact chronology and dating of the reigns of kings and their ages, and of events in Old Testament historical books. The authors had information not available to us today. Various schemes have sought to reconcile years and age, such as different calendars and co-regencies, but there are difficulties with all solutions. Don't get sidetracked trying to reconcile years and ages, as there are entire books written on this subject. There are no contradictions or errors in Scripture. Our focus should be on the lessons we learn for our lives from the lives of these characters.

HISTORICAL SETTING

To begin your discussion, ask your group what they learned about Elijah before 2 Kings 2. Tell them to look at “The Kings of Israel and Judah” and “The Historical Chart of the Kings and Prophets of Israel and Judah” as visual aids for this discussion.

1 Kings 17–18

God sent Elijah as a prophet during the time of Ahab, king of Israel. As a prophet, he spoke from God to the king, and he did miracles which demonstrated God's power and that He does what He says He will do.

He told Ahab it wouldn't rain for three years, and it didn't.

He told a widow her flour and oil wouldn't run out until rain came, and it didn't.

He even raised her child from the dead.

When he challenged Baal's prophets and called on God, God sent fire from heaven to demonstrate that He alone is God.

1 Kings 19:15-21

The Lord told Elijah to anoint Elisha as prophet in his place. He threw his mantle / cloak on Elisha as a sign for him to follow Elijah, and he did. Elisha became Elijah's disciple and ministered to him during King Ahab's reign over Israel.

2 KINGS 1

Ask what they noted as the theme of this chapter on their At a Glance chart.

King of Israel Ahaziah and Elijah the prophet

With that background, ask what happened in 2 Kings 1.

When Ahab died, his son Ahaziah became king, but he only reigned two years.

Instead of asking God, he was going to inquire of a Philistine god whether or not he would recover from an illness. The Lord sent a message via Elijah that Ahaziah would die because he sought the god of Ekron instead of the Lord. He was an evil king like all of Israel's kings had been before him.

When Ahaziah heard the message and sent men to Elijah, he called fire from heaven to consume at least 100 men. God's power and Word had been demonstrated through Elijah to two kings and countless people.

Then as a demonstration of God's mercy, the captain who approached Elijah in humility, respecting God's power through him, was spared along with his men.

When Ahaziah died, his brother Jehoram became king because Ahaziah had no son. Jehoram was also one of Ahab's sons and an evil man as well. He reigned twelve years over Israel.

NOTE: The year a king began to reign and the year his reign ended were both included in the count of the years reigned.

2 KINGS 2

What is the theme of this chapter?

Elijah was taken up; Elisha

Verses 1-14

How does this chapter begin?

At the end of Elijah's ministry the Lord evidently made known to Elisha and some other prophets that He was going to take Elijah away.

Tell your group to look at their map, and ask where Elisha followed Elijah that day.

Gilgal to Bethel

Then to Jericho

Then to the Jordan River, which they crossed on dry ground

Another miracle of God performed through Elijah

After Elijah and Elisha crossed the Jordan and Elijah asked what he could do for Elisha, Elisha said that he wanted a double portion of Elijah's spirit. Elijah's answer was not a yes or no, but based on whether or not Elisha saw him as he was taken up.

After Elisha saw Elijah taken to heaven in a whirlwind, he received Elijah's mantle / cloak and used it to divide the Jordan waters and cross back over to Jericho.

You could ask at this point what your group learned about a double portion.

Deuteronomy 21:15-17

The oldest son inherited a double portion of all his father had, twice as much as his brothers would get.

Isaiah 61:3-7

In the end times when Israel is restored to their land, they will receive a double portion.

Though there were other prophets during Elisha's time, he was the one to carry on Elijah's work, just as the firstborn in a family carried on for his father. Elisha desired a double portion of Elijah's spirit in order to carry out God's calling on his life during the time of Israel's wickedness.

Was God's power in the mantle / cloak? Or was it a picture of it, symbolic of His anointing, calling, and power?

A mantle / cloak was some sort of a covering.

When Elijah threw his mantle / cloak over Elisha in 1 Kings 19, he recognized it as a calling to follow Elijah. When Elijah used the mantle / cloak to dry up the Jordan, it was like Moses using his rod to do miracles in Exodus.

Elisha asked the question in 2 Kings 2:14, "Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?" and the answer is that He is not in a mantle / cloak. It was only symbolic of Elisha receiving Elijah's spirit and ministry as prophet.

You could ask about the passing of authority from Numbers 27 and Deuteronomy 34.

Moses commissioned Joshua to take his place as the leader of Israel. In the commissioning Moses laid his hands, not his mantle, on Joshua.

Verses 15-18

Who and what are these verses about?

The sons of the prophets at Jericho recognized Elijah's spirit rested on Elisha.

There were 50 of them who wanted to be his servants.

Relate this to God’s Spirit indwelling believers. How does it compare?

John 14:8-12, 16-17; 16:7-8

Jesus said believers would do greater works than He did, greater in scope not quality. They will do His works.

The Helper, Spirit of truth, abides in all believers forever.
He, the Helper, will convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment.

Relate that to what Elijah did during his life.

Acts 1:4-8

The result of the Holy Spirit within believers is power for them to witness, witness of Jesus to the world.

That’s what Elijah did; he spoke of God to all he was sent to. And that was what Elisha was called to do—be prophet in Elijah’s place.

There are Elijahs today—they’re Christians, real Christians who have the Spirit of Jesus dwelling within them giving them the power for ministry, witness.

Verses 19-25

What happened in these verses? Discuss how these verses compare with what Elijah did in 1 Kings 17–18.

These verses clearly demonstrate that Elijah’s spirit rested on Elisha. He spoke from the Lord and did miracles.

The young lads (ESV—small boys) of verses 23-24 does not mean children. A lad was usually older than a child.

They weren’t righteous or innocent since Elisha cursed them in the name of the Lord. So, they were mocking more than just a man who was bald. He might have shaved his head as a sign of mourning Elijah’s absence. They were mocking also by telling him to “go up,” or to be gone. In other words, they didn’t want him around.

Elisha’s curse was in the name of the Lord and the Lord judged the lads with the bears. This is not the only mention of God using animals to judge.

Leviticus 26:21-22

God promised to judge Israel with beasts of the field, along with other judgments, if they continued in their disobedience.

Elisha went from Jericho to Bethel to Mount Carmel and then to Samaria, the capital of the kingdom where King Jehoram lived.

2 KINGS 3

Ask what your group noted on their At a Glance chart as the theme of this chapter.

King of Israel Jehoram, King of Judah Jehoshaphat; Edom, Moab

Ask what they learned from this chapter, the characters and events.

Jehoshaphat was king of Judah when Ahab's son Jehoram became king of Israel. He was an evil king who followed Jeroboam's sins of idolatry.

1 Kings 12:25-33

Jeroboam, the first king of Israel (northern ten tribes) after God divided Israel into two kingdoms, set up two golden calves for his people to worship as the Lord. He was afraid that if they went to Jerusalem to worship, then he would lose them to the southern kingdom of Judah.

These sins of Jeroboam are repeated many times throughout 1 and 2 Kings.

Moab rebelled against Israel after Ahab died. So Jehoram was to lose all that Mesha had been paying Israel's king.

Jehoram gathered his army and even asked Jehoshaphat to go with him to war against Moab. The king of Edom also joined them for this war.

After seven days of not finding water Jehoram concluded that the Lord was going to give them all into Moab's hand. But Jehoshaphat wanted a prophet of the Lord to inquire of Him.

Jehoshaphat was a good king who constantly sought the Lord, and Elisha respected him for it.

Elisha prophesied to the kings that not only would they have water, but they would also defeat the Moabites. As God said, it happened. Filling the valley / streambed with water was a slight thing to the Lord.

Early in the morning, the Moabites were deceived by what they saw and went to Israel's camp. Israel slaughtered them as they fled.

The end of the chapter tells that the king of Moab sacrificed his oldest son as a burnt offering. Wrath came against Israel and they returned home.

NOTE: Commentators differ in their interpretation of verse 27. Some think the Moabites became angry against Israel when they saw what their king had done. Because "against" can also be translated "over," others think it means a great wrath came over Israel when they saw what the king had done, causing them to return home. There is also the thought that this was God's wrath against Israel.

Give your group time to discuss relevant application at any point in this discussion.

2 KINGS 4

What is the theme of this chapter?

Elisha raised dead boy; 5 miracles

Verses 1-7

How does this chapter begin?

Elisha multiplied oil for a widow. Elijah had done the same with oil and flour for a widow. The spirit of Elijah rested on Elisha.

Not only is it obvious that God's power worked in Elisha, but it can also be seen that He is the Provider. And He sometimes provides in miraculous ways.

Someone in your group might want to briefly share how God provided for them.

Verses 8-37

What happened in these verses?

These verses tell of a Shunammite woman who provided a place for Elisha to stay. Hearing that she had no son and that her husband was old, he told her she would have a son the next year, and it happened as he said.

When the Shunammite woman's son was grown, he died. Though this was years later, the woman remembered what Elisha, the man of God, had done and went to him for help. He sent his servant Gehazi to lay his staff on the boy, but nothing happened. Then Elisha arrived and went into the room with the boy; he prayed, and stretched himself on the child. The lad opened his eyes.

Elisha prayed, showing that his dependence was not on something he could do but on the power of God.

This miracle is similar to Elijah raising the Zarephath widow's son. Elisha did many of the same actions when the Shunammite's son was raised.

Verses 38-41

What else did Elisha do?

The sons of the prophets cried out to Elisha when they realized there was death in a pot of stew they were eating. He threw meal / flour into the pot, and there was no harm.

Verses 42-44

What was the next miracle?

Twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain were brought to Elisha, which he told his attendant to give to the people. The attendant didn't think this would feed them all, but the Lord said they would eat and have some left over. It happened as the Lord had said, according to His Word.

How does this relate to 2 Kings 2?

In 2 Kings 4 there were five things Elisha did that showed a double portion of Elijah's spirit was on him. He spoke for the Lord and from the Lord, and he did the works of the Lord.

To end this discussion, ask your group what they learned about the Lord from Elijah's or Elisha's examples. Give time for them to share.

PASSING THE MANTLE
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 2

Lesson emphasis:

- 2 Kings 5–8

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, ask your group about the themes of 2 Kings 1–4. Tell them to look at their At a Glance charts as a visual aid.

- 1 King of Israel Ahaziah and Elijah the prophet
- 2 Elijah was taken up; Elisha
- 3 King of Israel Jehoram, King of Judah Jehoshaphat; Edom, Moab
- 4 Elisha raised dead boy; 5 miracles

Then ask what they remember about Elijah and Elisha from the first lesson. Tell them to look at “The Kings of Israel and Judah.”

They were both prophets to the kings of Israel primarily.
They both did miracles and spoke for the Lord.

Elisha was Elijah’s servant, then took his place when the Lord took Elijah up in a whirlwind.

2 KINGS 5

Ask your group what they noted as the theme of this chapter on their At a Glance chart.

Elisha cured Naaman’s leprosy

Tell them to look at the map along with the charts as visual aids for this discussion.

Verses 1-5

Who and what are these verses about?

Naaman, a leper, was a valiant warrior (ESV—mighty man of valor) and the captain / commander of the army of the king of Aram / Syria. He was highly respected by the king, because by him the Lord had given Aram / Syria victory.

One person God used was a little girl taken captive from Israel by the Arameans / Syrians, who waited on Naaman's wife and spoke of the prophet in Samaria who would cure Naaman's leprosy. The king sent a letter and gifts to the king of Israel to cure Naaman's leprosy.

Ask your group what they learned about leprosy from the cross-references.

Exodus 4:1-9

The hand that became leprous and then was restored was a miracle to validate that what Moses spoke was God's Word.

Leviticus 13:1-9

The one with leprosy is unclean physically.

Numbers 12:1-6

Miriam's sin was judged by God for speaking against Moses by giving her leprosy temporarily.

2 Samuel 3:27-30

Leprosy was a judgment on Joab and his household for his sin.

Mark 1:40-45

When the leper was cleansed, it was an opportunity for God to display His mighty power.

Luke 17:12-19

Jesus healed 10 lepers and to the one who returned to thank Him, He said his faith made him well. This one evidently experienced spiritual healing.

Lead your discussion back to 2 Kings 5.

Verses 6-19

What happened next?

The king of Israel, Jehoram, thought the king of Aram / Syria was seeking a quarrel, but Elisha heard of the situation and asked that Naaman be sent to him. As Naaman came to the doorway of Elisha's house, Elisha did not go out but sent a messenger to tell Naaman to wash in the Jordan seven times.

Naaman was furious / angry, because Elisha did not come out and do what he expected him to do and went away. But his servants reasoned with him to do as Elisha directed, just as he would have done some great thing had Elisha commanded that.

Naaman dipped in the Jordan seven times and was cleansed; then he returned to Elisha.

How was Naaman's life different after his physical healing of leprosy?

God used his physical cleansing to bring about spiritual healing. Naaman recognized that there is no God in all the earth but in Israel and asked for pardon that he would have to bow in the house of Rimmon when taking his master there. He also offered a gift, which Elisha refused to take.

Naaman had gone from one who was angry and unwilling to dip into the Jordan to one who humbled himself before the God of all the earth and wanted to please Him.

God used Naaman's leprosy so that Naaman would recognize who He is.

Give time for your group to discuss spiritual application of this.

Verses 20-27

Ask what the last part of the chapter is about. Bring in cross-references where appropriate.

Gehazi decided to go after Naaman. He said Elisha sent him and asked for a talent of silver and two changes of clothes each for two sons of the prophets. Gehazi put these things in the house on his return, and when questioned by Elisha, he said he had been nowhere. Twice he lied. Elisha confronted him and said that as a result, the leprosy of Naaman would cling to Gehazi and his descendants forever.

What do the cross-references and word study teach about coveting and greed?

To covet is to desire enviously.

In his greed, Gehazi coveted what had been offered to Elisha for Naaman's healing.

Exodus 20:17

God says not to covet what belongs to another.

Joshua 6 and 7

Achan was another greedy man who coveted. He took things under ban—devoted to the Lord— when Israel attacked Jericho. Because of this, when Israel struck Ai they could not stand before their enemies. Achan was confronted and admitted he had coveted, taken, and concealed items. He and his family were stoned.

Achan's sin not only affected him, but also others.

1 Timothy 6:6-10

The believer is to be content with food and covering, because the love of money is the root of all sorts of evil; it causes some to even wander from the faith.

1 John 2:15-17

Don't love the things of the world, the things that will pass away: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life. One whose life is lived this way does not have the love of the Father in him.

2 Timothy 4:9-10

Demas deserted Paul because he loved the world.

2 Peter 2:1-3

Peter warned that false teachers in their greediness can exploit with false words.

1 Thessalonians 2:3-6

Paul assured the Thessalonians that was not his motive.

Colossians 3:5-6

Paul reminded the believers that they are to consider the members of their body as dead to greed, which amounts to idolatry. For this the wrath of God comes on the sons of disobedience.

Give time for your group to discuss application.

2 KINGS 6

What is the theme of this chapter?

Arameans / Syrians besieged Samaria; great famine

Verses 1-7

How does this chapter begin?

One of the prophets borrowed an axe to build a place for them to live. As he was working, the axe head fell into the water. Elisha, the man of God, threw a stick in the water and made the iron float.

Exodus 22:14

The Law said one is responsible to replace anything that was borrowed and injured.

Verses 8-23

Who and what are these verses about?

The king of Aram / Syria was warring against Israel and King Jehoram. Naaman the leper was from Aram / Syria, and Jehoram was king when Naaman went to Samaria.

Ask what your group learned from the cross-references about Aram / Syria.

Genesis 10:1, 22

The Arameans / Syrians came from Shem the son of Noah, just as Israel did, but Israel came from the line of Arpachshad, Aram's brother.

Genesis 25:20

Isaac, Jacob's (Israel's) father, married Rebekah, the daughter of an Aramean.

2 Samuel 10:18-19

David defeated the Arameans / Syrians who were hired by Ammon. These Arameans / Syrians made peace with Israel and served them.

Isaiah 7:8

Damascus is the head of Aram / Syria.

1 Kings 11; 15; 20

During Solomon's days, Rezon of Damascus was an adversary to Israel. King Asa of Judah made a treaty with Ben-hadad the king of Aram / Syria who lived in Damascus. This same Ben-hadad besieged the Northern Kingdom of Israel during the time of Ahab.

2 Kings 18:26

Aramaic, still used in some countries today, was the language of the Arameans / Syrians.

Lead your discussion back to 2 Kings 6:9-23.

Elisha warned King Jehoram concerning where the Arameans / Syrians were coming. When Ben-hadad asked which of his men was for Israel, a servant told him about Elisha, so Ben-hadad sent to Dothan to take Elisha.

Ben-hadad began to reign in the time of Asa and, therefore, was the king who sent Naaman to Israel.

Elisha's attendant saw Aram's army of horses and chariots circling the city, but Elisha told him not to fear. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." The Lord answered Elisha's prayer for the servant's eyes to be opened, and he saw the mountain full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

Ask what your group learned about the unseen host from the cross-references.

The Lord of hosts, Yahweh Sabaoth

Daniel 4:34-35 and 10:4-15

God does His will among the host of heaven.

Daniel saw a vision. An angelic messenger was sent to him, but had heavenly conflict with the prince of Persia. Michael is an angelic being.

Ephesians 1:18-23

And Christ is seated at the right hand of God, far above all rule, authority, power, and dominion.

Proverbs 21:31

Trust in the Lord of hosts, not in man. No matter what the odds may seem, the victory belongs to the Lord.

The Lord also answered Elisha's prayer that the Arameans / Syrians be struck with blindness and he led them to Samaria, where he asked the Lord to open their eyes. According to Elisha's words, the king of Israel gave a feast for them and sent them home.

This was another miracle for the Arameans / Syrians and the Israelites to see who God is.

Verses 24-33

What are these verses about?

Samaria, the capital of the Northern Kingdom was under siege by Ben-hadad of Aram / Syria and his army. The result was a severe famine.

Two women ate one of their sons and the king heard and tore his clothes. His threat on Elisha's life shows he put the blame on him, God's prophet.

King Jehoram knew the famine was from the Lord. But he asked why he should wait on the Lord.

2 KINGS 7

What is the theme of this chapter?

Elisha promised food in Israel after the famine

Verses 1-2

How does the conversation between Elisha and the king's messenger continue?

Elisha said tomorrow the situation would be better—fine flour sold for a shekel.

But the man questioned God could do it.

Elisha told him that he would see it happen but wouldn't eat of it.

Verses 3-20

What happened?

God caused the Arameans / Syrians to hear sounds of chariots, horses, and a great army.

They fled and left everything.

4 lepers found the deserted camp.

The king thought it was a trick, even though He had heard God's Word through Elisha. A few men went and saw that it was all true. It had happened just as God said.

The man Elisha prophesied to was put in charge of the gate and was trampled to death; he saw but did not eat.

Ask what your group learned about God from these chapters.
Relate this to the cross-references from Romans and 1 Corinthians.

Romans 8:31-39

God is in charge of armies, famine, life, death, deliverance.

If we belong to Him, nothing can separate us from Him.

Through Him we are overwhelmingly conquerors.

1 Corinthians 10:13

But He doesn't always deliver us out of circumstances. Sometimes He provides a way to endure through them. But He is faithful and won't give us more than we are able to bear.

Endurance strengthens us and shows His power in and through us.

2 KINGS 8:1-15

Verses 1-7

Who and what are these verses about?

Per God's Word through Elisha, the Shunammite woman went to Philistia during a seven-year famine. Upon her return she went to the king to appeal for her property. At that moment, King Jehoram was questioning Gehazi about Elisha. Gehazi told about the woman whose son Elisha had raised. The king appointed all that was hers would be restored, including the produce during the time she was gone.

What do these verses teach about the Lord?

This shows God's perfect timing and shows God as provider.

NOTE: Someone might mention that this famine was God's judgment on Israel for their sin, Deuteronomy 28.

Someone might also mention that this event was earlier in time when Gehazi was still Elisha's servant.

Verses 8-15

Where did these verses take place, and what happened?

Elisha went to Damascus and Ben-hadad, who was sick, sent a messenger, Hazael, to ask if he would recover.

You might ask why Ben-hadad would inquire of God rather than one of the gods of Aram.

Perhaps because he had seen God's power again and again.

Elisha told Hazael that Ben-hadad would recover from his sickness; however, the Lord had shown him that he would die, but not from sickness.

The man of God wept, because he knew Hazael would become king of Aram / Syria and do evil against Israel.

Hazael returned and told the king he would recover. Then he smothered the king on the following day and became king in his place.

If time allows, let your group review what they learned about God in these chapters.

Gives the victory
Sovereign over all in heaven and on earth
Makes Himself known to man
No other God in all the earth
Judges sin

PASSING THE MANTLE
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 3

Lesson emphasis:

- 2 Kings 8–10
- 2 Chronicles 21–22

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, ask your group about the themes of 2 Kings 1–7. Tell them to look at their At a Glance charts as a visual aid.

- 1 King of Israel Ahaziah and Elijah the prophet
- 2 Elijah was taken up; Elisha
- 3 King of Israel Jehoram, King of Judah Jehoshaphat; Edom, Moab
- 4 Elisha raised dead boy; 5 miracles
- 5 Elisha cured Naaman's leprosy
- 6 Arameans / Syrians besieged Samaria; great famine
- 7 Elisha promised food in Israel after the famine

Ask who the main characters have been in these chapters.
Tell them to look at "The Kings of Israel and Judah" chart as a visual aid for this discussion.

Elijah and Elisha, prophets to Israel
King of Israel Jehoram
Israel's enemy Aram / Syria
King of Aram / Syria Ben-hadad

2 KINGS 8:16-24 AND 2 CHRONICLES 21

What are the themes of these chapters? Ask what your group put on their At a Glance charts.

2 Kings 8 Hazael became King of Aram / Syria; Jehoram and Ahaziah kings of Judah
2 Chronicles 21 Jehoram King of Judah

2 Kings 8:16-19 and 2 Chronicles 21:1-7

Who are these verses about?

Joram, Ahab's son, king of Israel ruled when Jehoram Jehoshaphat's son became king of Judah. So there were two kings with the same name ruling at the same time.

In 2 Kings 3:1 Joram's name was also given as Jehoram.

Jehoshaphat's son Jehoram ruled with him as co-regent over Judah. The father died; then the son was king and had some experience ruling. Jehoram reigned eight years over Judah and was an evil king.

NOTE: 2 Kings 1:17 says that Jehoram of Israel became king the 2nd year of Jehoram of Judah. 2 Kings 3:1 says that Jehoram of Israel became king the 18th year of Jehoshaphat. These also show the co-regency of Jehoshaphat and Jehoram of Judah.

Jehoram murdered his own brothers when his father died.

Ahab's daughter Athaliah was married to King of Judah Jehoram. Ahab had been the most evil King of Israel.

The text doesn't clearly state that Jezebel was her mother, but Athaliah did display the same influence of evil on her husband as Jezebel did on Ahab.

Ask what your group learned from the cross-references. Give them time to discuss application.

1 Kings 11–12

Solomon had the same problem when he married foreign wives against God's command. Their influence caused him to sin. Rehoboam, Solomon's son, turned away from good counsel and took the bad advice of his peers.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

This gives a strong warning to believers not to be in partnership with unbelievers so as to be influenced by them. This does not mean that they should seek a divorce if they're already in an unequal marriage.

1 Corinthians 15:33 and Proverbs 1:10-19

More warnings:

Don't be deceived—bad company corrupts good morals.

Don't consent

Don't walk in the way with them

You might ask why God didn't completely wipe out the house of Jehoram, king of Judah, like He had the families of Jeroboam and Baasha of Israel.

2 Kings 8:19; 2 Chronicles 21:7

All of the kings of Judah were descendants of David, unlike the kings of Israel who were of different families. God had promised David in a covenant that He would not destroy his house.

God promised David he would always have a descendant left of his line.

He kept His promise to David in that He didn't wipe out his house.

1 Kings 8:20-24 and 2 Chronicles 21:8-20

What did God do to Jehoram because of his sin?

Edom revolted against Judah.

Libnah revolted.

God stirred up the Philistines and the Arabs.

The Arabs took Jehoram's wives and sons, except the youngest.

God struck Jehoram with a horrible disease of his bowels for two years.

He died in pain and to no one's regret.

Ask your group what they learned from 1 Corinthians 11 that can relate to this.

1 Corinthians 11:27-32

Even in the church, some people are sick because of not doing what the Lord says.

2 CHRONICLES 22

Verses 1-6 and 2 Kings 8:25-29

Who are these verses about?

Ahaziah, Jehoahaz in 2 Chronicles 21:17, Jehoram's youngest son became king of Judah after Jehoram's death because his other sons were killed by men who came with the Arabs to invade Judah.

Ahaziah was an evil king, and his mother Athaliah counseled him in wickedness. He only ruled 1 year in Jerusalem.

After his father died, his counselors were Ahab's house. They told him to go with Jehoram of Israel against Hazael of Aram / Syria. Ahaziah visited Jehoram in Jezreel because he was wounded from the battle.

Verses 7-9

What are these verses about?

The destruction of Ahaziah was from God.

Ahaziah went with Jehoram against Jehu who had been anointed to cut off Ahab's house, his descendants. Elijah had anointed him in 1 Kings 19:15-16.

While he was cutting off Ahab's house, he found princes of Judah and Ahaziah and killed them, too.

Ahaziah was a son of the man who sought the Lord with all his heart, Jehoshaphat.

2 KINGS 9

What is the theme of 2 Kings 9?

Elisha said to anoint Jehu king of Israel; Jehu killed Joram; Jezebel died

Verses 1-13

Ask your group what they learned about Jehu and the details of Ahaziah's death in this chapter. Bring in cross-references and application where appropriate.

This tells about Elisha sending a man to anoint Jehu as the next king of Israel.

He poured oil on Jehu's head and told him God had anointed him king of Israel to cut off Ahab's house and avenge the blood of His servants.

Ahab's whole house would perish.

Dogs would eat Jezebel in Jezreel. This was prophesied by Elijah in 1 Kings 21:17-29.

Those with Jehu proclaimed him king of Israel.

Verses 14-29

What happened?

Jehu conspired against Joram and headed for Jezreel. A watchman reported his coming two times, and both times the horseman sent out joined Jehu.

When Joram and Ahaziah went out in their chariots, Joram knew there was betrayal because Jehu indicated there would be no peace because of the harlotries of Jezebel, Joram's mother. Jehu shot Joram through the heart and had him thrown into Naboth's field according to the Lord's oracle to repay Ahab in that property.

Ahaziah fled, but was shot; then he fled to Megiddo and died.

2 Chronicles 22:9 says Ahaziah was caught while hiding in Samaria, and they brought him to Jehu and killed him. That was the region of Samaria, not the city of Samaria.

NOTE: The name "Samaria" is used for more than just the city. Sometimes it refers to the Northern Kingdom as in 1 Kings 13:32, which mentions the "cities of Samaria."

2 Kings 9:30-37

What happened?

Jezebel heard when Jehu came to Jezreel and referred to him as Zimri, his master's murderer. Zimri cut off Baasha's house.

Some of the officials threw Jezebel out the window at Jehu's request.
When sent to bury her, they found only the skull, the feet, and her palms.

Ask what your group learned about God from this.

Ahaziah's destruction was from God in that he went to Joram and was put to death when Jehu was executing judgment on Ahab's house.

God keeps His Word.

It was fulfilled in Joram's death, cutting off Ahab's house, throwing Joram's body in Naboth's property, and in that Jezebel was eaten by the dogs and was unrecognizable.

2 KINGS 10

What is the theme of this chapter?

Jehu eradicated Ahab's house and Baal from Israel

Verses 1-16

Who and what are these verses about?

Elijah's prophecy was fulfilled.

Jehu killed 70 sons of Ahab.

He continued to kill all who remained of Ahab's house of Ahab in Jezreel.

He also had those with him kill relatives of Ahaziah who had come to greet Jezebel.

Jehu met Jehonadab the son of Rechab and asked if he was in agreement with him. He took him into his chariot to show Jehonadab his zeal for the Lord.

At this point, you might ask what they learned in Jeremiah 35.

Jonadab (Jehonadab) commanded his sons not to build a house, not sow seed or plant a vineyard, and not to drink wine.

Because they obeyed him, the Lord said Jonadab would not lack a man to stand before Him always.

In contrast, the men of Judah and Jerusalem would not obey the Lord, even though He sent prophets to warn them.

Verses 17-28

What did Jehu do?

He killed all of the house of Ahab in Samaria.

Then he gathered the prophets and worshipers of Baal. After offering a burnt offering, Jehu had all of them killed, eradicating Baal from Israel.

Verses 29-36

How does this chapter about Jehu end?

Jehu did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam, the golden calves at Bethel and Dan, and didn't walk in the law of the Lord with all his heart.

The Lord promised Jehu his sons of the fourth generation would sit on the throne of Israel, because he had executed all that was in the Lord's heart concerning the house of Ahab. This was significant, because up to this point no family had had four generations of sons to sit on Israel's throne.

At that time the Lord began to cut off portions of land from Israel.
Hazeal went against Israel on the east side of the Jordan.

Deuteronomy 4:23-27

The Lord said through Moses that when Israel did evil in the Lord's sight, they would perish from the land.

God said if His people obeyed, they would be blessed.

When Jehu died, his son Jehoahaz became king of Israel in his place.

Ask what your group learned about God from this lesson. How should it affect their lives?

PASSING THE MANTLE
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 4

Lesson emphasis

- 2 Kings 11–12
- 2 Chronicles 22–24

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, ask your group about the main characters in this course. Tell them to look at “The Kings of Israel and Judah” and “The Historical Chart of the Kings and Prophets of Israel and Judah” as visual aids for this discussion.

Elijah and Elisha, prophets to Israel

Northern Kingdom of Israel

Ahaziah, Ahab’s son

Jehoram, Ahab’s son - Jehu killed

Jehu

Southern Kingdom of Judah

Jehoshaphat

Jehoram, married Athaliah, Ahab’s daughter and Omri’s granddaughter

Ahaziah

King of Aram / Syria Ben-hadad

How relevant to the times of the kings was the covenant God made with David?

2 Samuel 7:11b-16

God promised to build a house for David, a family line, and to establish his throne forever.

2 Kings 8:19, 25-29; 9:21-28 and 2 Chronicles 21:16-22:9

Kings of Judah Jehoram and Ahaziah were evil men, but God didn’t destroy their family line because of his promise to David. Some of the evil kings of Israel were wiped out completely, no heir left.

2 KINGS 11; 2 CHRONICLES 22:10–23:21

Ask your group what they noted on their At a Glance charts as the themes of these chapters.

2 Chronicles 22

Jehu killed Ahaziah; Athaliah

2 Chronicles 23	Jehoiada the priest made Joash king of Judah
2 Kings 11	Joash king; Baal gone from Judah

2 Kings 11:1-3 and 2 Chronicles 22:10-12

What happened after Ahaziah was killed?

Athaliah, Ahaziah’s mother, destroyed all the royal family in Jerusalem—all of David’s line.

Jehosheba, a priest’s wife and also Ahaziah’s sister, rescued one of Athaliah’s grandsons, Joash, Ahaziah’s son—a descendant of David.

She hid him in the temple for six years while Athalia ruled Judah.

2 Kings 11:4-21 and 2 Chronicles 23

Who and what are these verses about? Tell your group to look at their page “Jehoiada: a Profile of a Priest” as a visual aid for this part of your discussion.

Jehoiada was a priest, Jehosheba’s husband.

In the 7th year of hiding Joash in the temple, Jehoiada made a covenant with the captains, Levites and priests in the temple. They were to protect the young king.

They proclaimed him king there, and when Athaliah heard the noise she came to see what was happening. They took her out of the Lord’s house and killed her.

Then Jehoiada made a covenant between the Lord, the king and the people. They were to be His people. He also made a covenant between the king and the people.

As a result, they destroyed Baal worship from Judah.

Jehoash was seven years old when he became king of Judah.

NOTE: The spelling of the king’s name changed in 2 Kings 11 from Joash in verse 2 to Jehoash in verse 21.

At any point in this discussion, give your group time to talk about relevant application.

2 KINGS 12 AND 2 CHRONICLES 24

Ask what they put as the themes of these chapters on their At a Glance charts.

2 Kings 12	Jehoash and priests repair God’s house
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2 Chronicles 24	Joash king of Judah and Jehoiada the priest
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2 Kings 12:1-16 and 2 Chronicles 24:1-14

What are these verses about?

Jehoash reigned forty years as King of Judah and did what was right as long as Jehoiada the priest was instructing him. He fathered sons and daughters with the two wives Jehoiada took for him.

He decided to restore the Lord's house and commanded the priests to collect money for the restoration. In his 23rd year as king, they'd still not repaired the damages.

Jehoiada made a collection chest for the priests to put the collected money in.

The officers and the people rejoiced and brought in their levies, and the money was used to hire workmen to restore the Lord's house. Money left over was used to make utensils for worship, and burnt offerings were continually offered all Jehoiada's days.

The reason for the disrepair is given—the sons of Athaliah had broken into the house of God and used the holy things for the Baals.

Give your group time to discuss application.

2 Chronicles 24:15-22

What happened at this point? What difference did this make in Jehoash's life?

Jehoiada died at the age of 130 years and was buried in the city of David among the kings, because of his obedience.

After his death, the king began to listen to the officials of Judah. The Lord's house was abandoned, and they served the Asherim and idols.

The result was God's wrath on Judah.

God sent prophets, but the people would not listen. Then the Spirit of God came on Jehoiada's son, Zechariah, and he confronted the people. Because they had forsaken the Lord, He had forsaken them.

Jehoash did not remember Jehoiada's kindness to him, and murdered his son; Zechariah was stoned to death in the court of the Lord's house.

2 Chronicles 24:23-27 and 2 Kings 12:17-21

Who executed God's judgment on Joash and how?

Hazael the king of Aram / Syria went against Judah and defeated them.

The Aramean army was small, and Judah's was large, but Judah was defeated because they had forsaken the Lord.

2 Kings indicates that in order to keep Hazael from taking over Jerusalem, Jehoash took the sacred things and the gold from the treasuries of the Lord's house and the king's house and sent them to Hazael, who then went away from Jerusalem.

Jehoash was left very sick after the battle, and was struck and killed on his bed by his own servants who conspired against him because of Zechariah's death. He was buried in the city of David, but not in the tombs of the kings as Jehoiada the priest had been.

Amaziah his son became the next king.

To end this discussion, you might ask what kind of a legacy the people in your group are leaving for those coming after them. Give time for discussion.

PASSING THE MANTLE
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 5

Lesson emphasis:

- 2 Kings 13–14
- 2 Chronicles 25

REVIEW

You could begin by asking what the title of the lesson is—A Mantle and a Heart for God. Let them share what the mantle refers to and what it means to have a heart for God.

Elisha received Elijah’s mantle when Elijah was taken up to heaven. It was a symbol of the God-given authority and power that were passed from one to the other. Elisha knew the power was not in the mantle but in God, even as he struck the waters with the mantle and asked, “Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah?” (2 Kings 2:14).

The believer today has the power of the Holy Spirit who lives within. A life lived in the power of the Spirit is a life that brings glory to God.

A heart for God is one that seeks His will and desires to follow Him fully.

Ask your group what they learned in the cross-references about Elijah and Elisha on Day Five.

Matthew 17:1-13

Elijah appeared with Moses on a mountain when Jesus was transfigured. Afterward, Jesus said Elijah is coming and will restore all things. He also said Elijah already came but wasn’t recognized. He meant John the Baptist. If Israel had accepted John the Baptist as Elijah, they would have accepted Christ, because John prepared the way for Christ.

Malachi 4:5-6

Jesus’ statement was from the prophet Malachi, speaking of Elijah being sent before the great and terrible day of the Lord.

Luke 4:22-30

Elijah was used as an example of a prophet not being welcome in his home town. He was sent to the widow of Zarephath, not to Israel.

Elisha is also mentioned as an example. He cleansed Naaman a Syrian, though there were many lepers in Israel.

Elijah was the greater of the two, the one who will come to prepare the way of the Lord. However, both did what they were called to do by the power of God.

Then ask about the main characters in this course. Tell them to look at “The Kings of Israel and Judah” and “The Historical Chart of the Kings and Prophets of Israel and Judah” as visual aids for this discussion.

Elijah and Elisha, prophets to Israel

Northern Kingdom of Israel

Ahaziah, Ahab’s son
Jehoram, Ahab’s son - Jehu killed
Jehu

Southern Kingdom of Judah

Jehoshaphat had a heart for God.
Jehoram, married Athaliah, Ahab’s daughter and Omri’s granddaughter
Ahaziah
Joash

Kings of Aram / Syria Ben-hadad and Hazael

2 KINGS 13

What is the theme of this chapter?

Jehoahaz and Jehoash (Joash) kings of Israel; Elisha died

Verses 1-9

Who does this chapter begin with and what happened?

Jehoahaz, son of Jehu - Israel - reigned 17 years
He continued in the sins of Jeroboam, the first king of Israel.

God had promised Jehu that his sons of the fourth generation would sit on Israel’s throne, because Jehu had executed Ahab’s house to avenge the blood of God’s servants.

The Lord continually gave Israel into the hand of Hazael and his son Ben-hadad.

It is interesting that Hazael named his son after the previous king of Aram / Syria whom he murdered.

Elisha, in 2 Kings 8, wept when he told Hazael that he’d be the king of Aram / Syria. Elisha knew what Hazael would do to Israel.

God listened to Jehoahaz and saw Aram’s / Syria’s oppression of Israel.
He sent them a deliverer / savior, but Israel continued in idolatry.

Ask how the cross-reference to Judges 2 relates to this.

Judges 2:11-17

The pattern in Judges:

The people did evil.

God's anger burned and He gave them into the hands of their enemies.

They were severely distressed.

(In later chapters of Judges it says they cried out to God, as Jehoahaz did.)

The Lord raised up a judge, deliverer / savior.

They didn't listen and played the harlot / whored after other gods.

Verses 10-13

Who was the next king of Israel and what do these verses say about him?

Joash (Jehoash), son of Jehoahaz - reigned 16 years

He was evil and followed the sins of Jeroboam.

Verses 14-25

What happened in these verses?

When Elisha became sick, Joash went to him.

God delivered Joash's father, Jehoahaz from the Arameans / Syrians, but he was left with not more than 50 horsemen and 10 chariots.

Joash made the same exclamation that Elisha made to Elijah in 2 Kings 2:12. It seems that he asked Elisha what was going to happen to Israel.

Joash followed Elisha's instructions to shoot an arrow out the window. It was the Lord's arrow of victory over Aram / Syria.

At Elisha's command to strike the ground, Joash struck only three times, making Elisha the man of God angry. Joash would strike Aram / Syria three times in victory, but that would not be enough for complete destruction.

Ask what your group learned from the cross-references about a man of God and discuss relevant application.

Many of those in the Old Testament references who were called men of God were prophets who spoke for the Lord—Moses, Samuel, Shemaiah, Elijah, and the unnamed man of God who spoke to Amaziah. David was also called a man of God; he gave God's Word concerning how worship in the temple should be organized.

1 Timothy 6:11-14

Timothy was called a man of God by Paul and was instructed to pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness, and to fight the good fight of faith. He made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Paul told Timothy that Scripture is inspired by God and profitable. By it the man of God is equipped for every good work.

The man of God refers to a believer. A believer can be called a man or woman of God, because they belong to God, speak God's Word, and are empowered by His Holy Spirit.

There is a question in the lesson on Day Five, "...how much should you love God to be a man or woman of God?" Ask what they learned from the cross-references.

Deuteronomy 6:4-14

God commanded Israel to love Him with all their heart, soul, and mind. His words were to be on their hearts, and they were to teach them to their children.

Matthew 22:35-38

Jesus said the greatest commandment is to love God with all one's heart, soul and mind. The whole of the Law and the Prophets hangs on this commandment. The second is to love neighbors as self.

Lead your discussion back to 2 Kings 13:20-21. What happened to Elisha?

Then Elisha died, but God's power didn't.

When burying a man, the Israelites saw some marauding Moabites and threw the dead man into Elisha's grave. When the man's body touched Elisha's bones, he revived and stood.

What do verses 22-23 teach about God?

He was gracious and compassionate toward Israel.

He didn't destroy Israel or leave them because of His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

How do verses 24-25 relate to the rest of the chapter?

These show the fulfillment of Elisha's prophecy to Joash concerning Israel and Aram / Syria.

Defeating Ben-hadad three times, Joash took back from him the cities which he had taken from Jehoahaz, but did not completely destroy Aram / Syria.

NOTE: Because of these defeats of Aram that took place under Joash, some believe that Joash was the deliverer the Lord gave Israel in response to his father Jehoahaz's entreaty (verses 4 and 5) and/ or Jeroboam II, grandson of Jehoahaz, because he was able to extend Israel's boundaries back into Syrian territory.¹ Others believe the deliverer was either Elisha, because he commissioned Joash to defeat the Syrians, or the Assyrian king Adad-Nirari III, whose attack on the Syrians enabled the Israelites to break Syria's control over Israel's territory.²

2 KINGS 14 AND 2 CHRONICLES 25

Ask your group what they noted on their At a Glance charts as the themes for these chapters.

2 Kings 14	Amaziah king of Judah; Jehoash and Jeroboam kings of Israel
2 Chronicles 25	Amaziah king of Judah

What are these chapters about?

Amaziah, son of Joash - Judah

Amaziah did right, but like his father, not like David. 2 Chronicles describes it as “yet not with a whole heart.” Also, the high places remained and the Asherah.

What do 2 Chronicles 15–16 say about the heart and the importance of maintaining one's heart?

The prophet Azariah told King Asa of Judah to be strong and not lose courage; there was reward for his work. Asa did take courage and removed the idols from all the cities over which he reigned and restored the altar of the Lord.

He then assembled the people to enter into covenant to seek the Lord with all their heart and soul; then the Lord gave them rest on every side. This took place in the 15th year of Asa's reign.

Though the high places were not removed, Asa's heart was blameless all his days.

In the 36th year of Asa's reign, Asa sought the help of the king of Aram / Syria, rather than seeking God. Hanani the seer brought God's message to him and said he acted foolishly. Because he had relied on the king of Aram / Syria, not God, the king of Aram / Syria escaped, and Asa would have wars from then on.

The Lord looks throughout the earth to give strong support to those whose heart is completely His (ESV—blameless toward him).

¹ John H. Traylor, Jr. *Layman's Bible Book Commentary, 1 & 2 Kings, 2 Chronicles, Vol. 6* (Nashville, Tennessee: Broadman Press, 1981), p. 75.

² John MacArthur, *The MacArthur Study Bible* (Nashville, Tennessee: Word Publishing, 1997), p. 537, footnote on 2 Kings 13:5.

Lead your discussion back to 2 Kings 14 and 2 Chronicles 25. Ask what else they learned about Amaziah.

He killed the servants who killed his father.

The next event described in 2 Kings is a battle with Edom.

2 Chronicles says Amaziah took a census of the men in Judah able to fight and assembled them under commanders. He had 300,000 choice men for war and also hired 100,000 valiant warriors from Israel.

But those were Amaziah's plans, and the Lord sent a man of God with God's plans. The Lord was not with Israel, nor with Ephraim. If Amaziah took them to battle, God would bring him down. God has the power to help and to bring down.

Amaziah was concerned about the money he paid for the 100,000 warriors, but the man of God said God had much more to give him than this.

Judah struck down 10,000 and also killed 10,000 in the Valley of Salt, probably at the southern end of the Dead or Salt Sea, by throwing them down from the cliff.

Meanwhile, Amaziah's initial trust in man brought about consequences as the hired warriors raided some of the cities of Judah on their way home, possibly because they did not get to go to war and get the spoils of war.

Amaziah brought the gods of Edom from the battle and worshiped them. The Lord was angry and sent a prophet asking why Amaziah had sought the gods of Edom who could not even deliver Edom from his hand. Amaziah was not willing to listen to his counsel, so God planned to destroy him.

Amaziah did take counsel from someone other than the prophet and sent to Joash of Israel to face him in battle. Joash likened Amaziah to a thorn bush sending to a great cedar of Lebanon, only to be trampled by a wild beast passing by. Amaziah's heart had become proud and boasting after his defeat of Edom. He would fall and Judah with him.

Amaziah didn't listen to Joash, just as he didn't listen to the prophet. 2 Chronicles tells why: it was from God, that He might deliver them into Israel's hands because they had sought Edom's gods.

So they faced each other at Beth-shemesh in Judah; Judah was defeated and Amaziah was captured. Gold, silver, and utensils were taken from the temple and the king's house and hostages were taken.

Amaziah outlived Joash by 15 years. He was evidently released by Joash or his son Jeroboam to return to Jerusalem. A conspiracy caused him to flee to Lachish, but he was caught and killed there.

Azariah his son was made king in his place. He built Elath and restored it to Judah.

Ask what the texts say about Jeroboam of Israel.

Another evil king of Israel who followed the sins of the first king named Jeroboam

Israel was in bitter affliction.

God raised up Jeroboam to restore the border of Israel from the entrance of Hamath as far as the Sea of the Arabah, including Damascus.

This was according to the Lord's Word through the prophet Jonah the son of Amittai, the same Jonah that the Book of Jonah is about.

NOTE: During the second half of Jeroboam's reign and the reign of Amaziah's son Azariah, Amos prophesied that God would raise up a nation that would afflict Israel from the entrance of Hamath to the brook of the Arabah (Amos 6:14)

Who became king after Jeroboam?

Zechariah, Jeroboam's son became king after him.

God had promised Jehu that his sons of the fourth generation would sit on the throne. Zechariah was the fourth generation.

To end this discussion, you might ask if God keeps His promises. Give time for your group to discuss what they've learned as lessons for life from this course.