Unit 13, Session 3

The Gifts of God’s Power

Summary and Goal
In the previous session, we read of Elijah’s call to anoint Elisha as a prophet in Elijah’s place. In this session, we find Elijah fulfilling this call. Elisha takes up the prophetic mantle in the spirit of Elijah. The story begins at the end of 1 Kings 19 but continues into 2 Kings and is an important story for connecting the whole story of Kings with the rest of Scripture. Eventually, the One greater than Elijah and Elisha—Jesus—would come. Our Lord has given us a Great Commission: to make disciples of all nations in the power of the Spirit. Jesus demands immediate obedience and wholehearted allegiance. Elisha was asked to follow a prophet, but we have been called to follow the Son of God.

Session Outline
1. The successor commits fully to the mission (1 Kings 19:19-22).
2. The successor requests God’s power to complete the mission (2 Kings 2:6-12a).
3. The successor is confirmed by a sign to begin the mission (2 Kings 2:12b-15).

Background Passage: 1 Kings 19–2 Kings 2

Session in a Sentence
God empowers His people to confirm their calling and to carry out His mission.

Christ Connection
When Elisha succeeded the prophet Elijah, he asked for the same spirit that was in Elijah to be given to him. God granted Elisha’s request and revealed His presence through a miracle. Years later when Jesus prepared His followers to begin their ministry, He instructed them to wait for the Holy Spirit, who came upon them and confirmed His presence in miraculous ways.

Missional Application
Because we have been given the Holy Spirit, we fulfill the mission Christ has given us and share the gospel with the world, knowing that our strength comes from God’s Spirit.
Group Time

Introduction

EXPLAIN: Use the paragraph on page 29 in the Daily Discipleship Guide (DDG) to talk about the importance of succession plans. Connect this to how the gospel is shared and passed down through the ages.

Succession is important in various spheres of life. We see good succession plans emphasized in business, sports, and government, just to name a few. As Christians, we enjoy the benefits of faithful brothers and sisters in previous generations who have handed down the faith to the next generation. How did the gospel get from Jerusalem to you? It was this: Christians didn’t let the gospel die with them. They shared it with others and passed it down to the next generation. So here we are today bearing that same responsibility.

INTERACT: Ask group members the following question. Do not require responses from everyone; be mindful that some in your group may not yet be Christians.

How have you been discipled by others in your life? (be prepared to give an answer of your own to jump-start the conversation)

SUMMARIZE: In the previous session, we read of Elijah’s call to anoint Elisha as a prophet in Elijah’s place, as his successor. In this session, we find Elijah fulfilling this call. Elisha takes up the prophetic mantle in the spirit of Elijah. The story begins at the end of 1 Kings 19 but continues into 2 Kings and is an important story for connecting the whole story of Kings with the rest of Scripture. Eventually, the One greater than Elijah and Elisha—Jesus—would come. Our Lord has given us a Great Commission: to make disciples of all nations in the power of the Spirit. Jesus demands immediate obedience and wholehearted allegiance. Elisha was asked to follow a prophet, but we have been called to follow the Son of God.

For session-by-session training videos, please visit MinistryGrid.com/GospelProject.
For additional teaching options and other resources, please visit GospelProject.com/additional-resources.
**Point 1:** The successor commits fully to the mission (1 Kings 19:19-22).

**READ:** Ask a volunteer to read 1 Kings 19:19-22 (DDG p. 30).

19 Elijah left there and found Elisha son of Shaphat as he was plowing. Twelve teams of oxen were in front of him, and he was with the twelfth team. Elijah walked by him and threw his mantle over him. 20 Elisha left the oxen, ran to follow Elijah, and said, “Please let me kiss my father and mother, and then I will follow you.”

“Go on back,” he replied, “for what have I done to you?”

21 So he turned back from following him, took the team of oxen, and slaughtered them. With the oxen’s wooden yoke and plow, he cooked the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he left, followed Elijah, and served him.

**EXPLAIN:** Use the paragraph in the DDG (p. 30) to highlight Elisha’s total commitment to follow God’s call upon his life through Elijah.

Elisha showed his commitment to follow Elijah by destroying all of his old means of sustenance. He then threw a party to tell everyone he was following God’s will. Elisha was excited to abandon everything he knew for the call of the Lord.

- **Elisha:** His name means “God saves.” Elisha was a farmer, and apparently a wealthy one since he had twelve teams of oxen (v. 19).

- This young apprentice must have given Elijah fresh strength. In 2 Kings 2:12, Elisha called Elijah “my father,” indicating the closeness the two shared. Elisha was like an intern who apparently did some menial tasks, like washing the hands of Elijah (2 Kings 3:11).

**INSTRUCT:** Ask group members to use the scale in their DDG (p. 30) to consider their willingness to sacrifice what is precious to them for God’s call on their lives.

How would you gauge your willingness to sacrifice in order to follow God's call?

Prideful Refusal  Joyful Surrender

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**EXPLAIN:** Using the table in the DDG (p. 30), compare Elijah’s interaction with Elisha to Jesus’ response to a would-be disciple in Luke 9.

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allowed Elisha to Say Goodbye? <strong>Yes</strong></td>
<td>Allowed Man to Say Goodbye? <strong>No</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A <strong>Prophet</strong> of God</td>
<td>The <strong>Son</strong> of God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Called Elisha as a <strong>Prophet</strong></td>
<td>Calls Disciples to Make <strong>Disciples</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Elisha asked Elijah if he could go say goodbye to his family before following him, and Elijah allowed it (**Yes**). To a would-be follower in Luke 9:61-62, however, Jesus responded to a similar request by saying this would make the man unfit for the kingdom of God (**No**).
- Why did Jesus not accept this request? For this reason: Jesus is greater than Elijah. Elisha was being asked to follow a **prophet** of God, but we have been called to follow the Lord of glory, the **Son** of God. We must follow Him at once and then deal with these other details later.
- Jesus’ call takes precedence over everyone and everything. He demands **immediate obedience** and **wholehearted allegiance**. Elisha was being called as a **prophet** to succeed Elijah, which he obeyed wholeheartedly; of greater importance, Jesus calls His disciples to lay down their lives for His gospel mission to make **disciples** of all nations (Matt. 28:18-20).

**FILL IN THE BLANKS:** Provide group members with the answers for the call-out in their DDG (p. 30).

Mission of the Church: Go into the world in the power of the Spirit and make disciples by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus, calling people to respond in ongoing **repentance** and **faith**.

**Essential Doctrine “Mission of the Church”:** The church is a sign and instrument of the kingdom of God, a people united by faith in the gospel announcement of the crucified and risen King Jesus. The mission of the church is to go into the world in the power of the Spirit and make disciples by proclaiming this gospel, calling people to respond in ongoing **repentance** and **faith**, and demonstrating the truth and power of the gospel by living under the lordship of Christ for the glory of God and the good of the world.

**INTERACT:** Ask group members the following question.

What must we give up in order to follow Jesus wholeheartedly? (our pride; our worldly desires; our preferences; our security; our sin; our plans; our worries)
**Point 2:** The successor requests God’s power to complete the mission (2 Kings 2:6-12a).

**READ** 2 Kings 2:6-12a (DDG p. 31).

6 Elijah said to him, “Stay here; the Lord is sending me to the Jordan.”
   But Elisha said, “As the Lord lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.”
   So the two of them went on.

7 Fifty men from the sons of the prophets came and stood observing them at a distance while the two of them stood by the Jordan.
   Elijah took his mantle, rolled it up, and struck the water, which parted to the right and left. Then the two of them crossed over on dry ground.
   When they had crossed over, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I can do for you before I am taken from you.”
   So Elisha answered, “Please, let me inherit two shares of your spirit.”
   Elijah replied, “You have asked for something difficult. If you see me being taken from you, you will have it. If not, you won’t.”

11 As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire with horses of fire suddenly appeared and separated the two of them. Then Elijah went up into heaven in the whirlwind.
   As Elisha watched, he kept crying out, “My father, my father, the chariots and horsemen of Israel!”

**EXPLAIN:** Use the first paragraph in the DDG (p. 31) to explain Elijah’s test of Elisha in asking him to remain behind: Would Elisha hang back as he was being asked or persevere in his calling to follow and succeed Elijah?

When the time came for Elijah’s departure, he initially tried to shake Elisha (vv. 1-6). This likely was a test to see if Elisha would count the cost of discipleship, and he passed. Regarding our own call to forsake all for the glory of God, will we persist and persevere?

**INSTRUCT:** Ask groups of 3-4 to record in the space in their DDG (p. 31) some characteristics, such as perseverance, that are important for a disciple of Jesus. Emphasize that these characteristics do not make one worthy of salvation but develop and grow through the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer.

What are some important characteristics of a disciple of Jesus?

- perseverance
- faith in Jesus
- humility
- love
- joy
- peace
- patience
- kindness
- goodness
- faithfulness
- gentleness
- self-control
- a giving heart
- reliance upon the power of God
- love for the church
FILL IN THE BLANKS: Provide group members with the answers for the call-out in their DDG (p. 31).

Temple of the Holy Spirit: As the temple of the Holy Spirit, we live our lives differently than before, bearing the virtuous fruit that comes only by the indwelling work of the Spirit, which also equips individual members of the church with gifts for the work of the ministry.

Essential Doctrine “Temple of the Holy Spirit”: The Holy Spirit indwells the church, both individually and corporately (1 Cor. 3:16-17; 12:13). As the temple of the Holy Spirit, we live our lives differently than before, bearing the virtuous fruit that comes only by the indwelling work of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23). This indwelling work of the Spirit also equips individual members of the church with gifts for the work of the ministry (1 Cor. 12:11).

EXPLAIN: Reference the second paragraph in the DDG (p. 31) as you clarify the meaning behind Elisha’s request for a “double portion” of Elijah’s spirit. Also comment as needed on the chariot and horses of fire and Elisha’s description of Elijah as “the chariots and horsemen of Israel.”

Elisha asked for a “double portion” of Elijah’s spirit. He recognized that he would need great help as God’s representative to fulfill his calling. The God who sent the chariot and horses of fire for Elijah is that help, and He would be with Elisha in power.

• A “double portion” of Elijah’s spirit likely was a reference to the inheritance of the firstborn (Deut. 21:17). Elisha was saying he would live as though he were Elijah’s firstborn son and carry on his prophetic work in Israel.

• The appearing of the chariot and horses of fire symbolized that these prophets were the power of Israel because God’s power was with them. In a whirlwind, Elijah went on to his eternal reward without tasting death because it is God who is in control of death and He alone can overrule it.

• Looking on as Elijah was taken up into heaven, Elisha called Elijah “the chariots and horsemen of Israel” (2 Kings 2:12). Elisha was saying Elijah was like the army of Israel or better—he was the true defense of Israel because God had been with him in power to call the people to repentance from their idolatry. Elisha would be described in the same terms at his death by the king of Israel (13:14).

INTERACT: Ask group members the following question.

How is the power of God evident in the life of the believer in Christ? (in the service and use of spiritual gifts in the name of Christ for the glory of God alone; refusal to hold grudges; forgiving others as you have been forgiven; perseverance in the faith despite hardships and suffering; proclaiming the gospel of Christ crucified and raised for our salvation with urgency and boldness)
Point 3: The successor is confirmed by a sign to begin the mission (2 Kings 2:12b-15).

Read 2 Kings 2:12b-15 (DDG p. 32).

12b When he could see him no longer, he took hold of his own clothes, tore them in two, 13 picked up the mantle that had fallen off Elijah, and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. 14 He took the mantle Elijah had dropped, and he struck the water. “Where is the Lord God of Elijah?” he asked. He struck the water himself, and it parted to the right and the left, and Elisha crossed over. 15 When the sons of the prophets from Jericho who were observing saw him, they said, “The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha.” They came to meet him and bowed down to the ground in front of him.

Explain: Use the first paragraph in the DDG (p. 32) to highlight God’s faithfulness in raising up Elisha to succeed Elijah. Note that Elisha’s faith in God’s power to perform miracles revealed to the prophets who were watching that he was Elijah’s successor.

God would not cease to have a prophet calling Israel to faithfulness. Elijah might have been gone, but God wasn’t. The God of Elijah was still present, which was what Elisha communicated when he struck the river once again with Elijah’s cloak. Elisha believed that God had not abandoned the people, and he relied upon God for the power to minister to them. Elisha, like Elijah, operated with a great vision of God. These two prophets had great faith because they had a great God—as do we.

Voices from Church History

“[Elijah] left his mantle as a legacy to Elisha, and, though in itself it was of small value, yet as it was a token of the descent of the Spirit upon him, it was more than if he had bequeathed to him thousands of gold and silver.”

—Matthew Henry (1662-1714)

- The company of prophets who saw Elijah and Elisha cross the Jordan on dry ground saw Elisha return alone in the same way, and they realized that Elijah had passed his prophetic work and power on to Elisha (vv. 7,15). They showed Elisha reverence as the new representative of God for Israel because he had the spirit of Elijah resting on him, evidenced by the repeated miracle of walking through the Jordan River on dry ground.

Interact: Ask group members the following question.

What should faith in the God of Elijah lead believers to do and say today? (press forward in sharing the gospel, believing God will open pathways for its proclamation; boldly stand up against idolatry and injustice in the world; pray for miracles that help reveal God’s glory)
EXPLAIN: Use the second paragraph in the DDG (p. 32) to show how Elisha’s prophetic ministry carried on Elijah’s work and also pointed forward to the greater Prophet—Jesus the Messiah.

Elisha was a true successor to Elijah, so His ministry in Israel and the surrounding nations would bring the blessings of God’s grace and the curses of His judgment. But his ministry was greater still, for it pointed forward to a greater Prophet. This Prophet, the true firstborn Son of God, also was anointed at the Jordan River. His command over water came not through a mantle but by the sound of His voice. And He came not just to confront idolatry but to provide salvation from idolatry. He is greater than Elijah; He is greater than Elisha; He is the God-man, Jesus the Messiah.

PACK ITEM 4: CONNECTIONS: Use this handout and the leader content below to help you explain the connections to Elijah and Elisha throughout Scripture (Looking Backward and Looking Forward) that ultimately point forward to the coming of Jesus the Messiah.

- **Looking Backward:** Elijah parted the Jordan River with language similar to Moses’ crossing of the Red Sea: “dry ground” (Ex. 14:21-22; 2 Kings 2:8). Both departed from the earth (Moses in death) outside the promised land leaving behind disciples to take up their work: Joshua and Elisha (Deut. 34; 2 Kings 2). Further, Elisha came back through the Jordan with the purpose of rooting out Canaanite worship in Israel, echoing Joshua’s leadership in conquering the Canaanites of the promised land (Josh. 1).

- **Looking Forward:** Elijah also pointed forward to John the Baptist, another prophet who wore the same clothes as Elijah (2 Kings 1:8; Matt. 3:4). John the Baptist would be a forerunner to the Messiah, crying out in the wilderness (Mal. 3:1; 4:5; Matt. 3:1-3; 11:7-15); he condemned a national power with a woman, akin to Jezebel, at the center of it seeking his life (Matt. 14:3-12). John the Baptist also would anoint his Successor—Jesus, the greater Elisha—at the Jordan, the firstborn Son of God to receive the promised inheritance (Matt. 3:11-17). At Jesus’ transfiguration, Moses and Elijah appeared along with Him, not merely pointing to a successor but to the One who supersedes all (Mal. 4:5-6; Matt. 17:1-5).

- The God-man, Jesus the Messiah, doesn’t just call people back to covenant faithfulness. He actually bore the penalty that covenant breaking deserves and was lifted up on a cross so that, if you will seek Him, His judgment will be your judgment and His resurrection will be your resurrection.

INTERACT: Ask group members the following question.

Why should the unfolding of the whole story of Scripture inspire us to worship and trust our God? (He is sovereign, in control of all things; He is masterful in the true story He is telling with His Son at its center; Jesus comes not as an afterthought but as the eternal purpose of God for us)
EXPLAIN: Like Elisha’s call to follow Elijah, Jesus calls on His followers to deny self to follow Him. Following God’s will is a privilege, but it comes at a cost. Yet passing on the truths of God’s Word to the world is worth it because people will hear the good news of Jesus the Messiah and believe for eternal life. Elisha was a human being, like Elijah, and was therefore in need of God’s power to continue his prophetic ministry. We also share humanity in common with Elisha, so we need the enabling power of the Spirit to obey the Great Commission faithfully, and we can do so boldly because our God is faithful and we can trust Him.

READ the following missional application statement in the DDG (p. 33), and encourage group members to choose at least one of the options below as a way to respond to the truth of God’s Word.

Because we have been given the Holy Spirit, we fulfill the mission Christ has given us and share the gospel with the world, knowing that our strength comes from God’s Spirit.

- What are you being called to as a disciple of Jesus Christ?
- How can your group develop godly relationships in light of the relationship between Elijah and Elisha?
- Who will you be praying for and calling to a life of discipleship in the power of the Holy Spirit?

CLOSE IN PRAYER: Father, You are faithful to give Your people what we need to fulfill Your mission. Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, who not only defeated sin and death for us by dying and rising again but also empowered us by sending forth the Spirit to indwell His people. Forgive us for neglecting the power and resources You have given us in Your Spirit, and help us to live out the mission of making disciples. Amen.

INSTRUCT: As your group departs, encourage group members to read and respond to the Daily Study devotions in their DDG (pp. 34-36), which build and expand upon the group study. Also advocate for small groups or families to use Encourage One Another (p. 37) for mutual accountability and fellowship grounded upon the foundation of God’s Word.

Voices from Church History

“Except the Lord endow us with power from on high, our labour must be in vain, and our hopes must end in disappointment.”

—Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892)
Daily Discipleship

Throughout the week following the session, use the ideas below to remind and encourage your group members to live as disciples of Jesus Christ. The Daily Study devotions in the DDG (pp. 34-36) will help group members get into God’s Word and study it for themselves. Encourage One Another (p. 37) will help group members and families fellowship with one another with purpose.

Daily Study

Brief daily devotions in the DDG (pp. 34-36) will help group members take initiative in their own discipleship.

- Make sure all group members have access to a Bible to read. Have some Bibles available to give to guests who may need one, or offer to get one and arrange a time to meet to give it and show how to navigate it for the devotions.
- Share the following idea from the devotion for Day 1 as a part of point 1 in the session: The call to follow Jesus will also involve sacrificing certain things. It’s a privilege to follow Jesus, yet it’s also costly.

Consider leading by example and reading the daily devotions yourself with your own DDG. Based on your study, use brief messages throughout the week (group text, email, social media) to encourage your group to keep up with their daily time in God’s Word and to live it out. Here are a couple of examples you can use:

- Day 2: “When we passively and implicitly teach our children that God isn’t important, our children will live that story out.”
- Day 3: “Will we count the cost? Will we seek the glory of God over our own? Will we rely on God’s power to speak God’s Word faithfully in the darkness?”

Visit www.GospelProject.com/Blog for additional content and resources you can use to help group members gain more insight into their daily studies. Send group members a link or a portion of a blog post or other content that you believe will be helpful and encouraging for their time in God’s Word.

Encourage One Another

This brief plan for fellowship and accountability in the group member’s DDG (p. 37) will help groups of 2-4 people to meet sometime during the week to reflect on the session and to share how God is working and they are responding. It could also be used for family discipleship with students and children who are using The Gospel Project in their groups.

- Encourage group members to exhort one another to consider what life on mission looks like for them when lived in the power of the Spirit.
- See yourself as a member of the group who also needs encouragement in the faith, and participate in such a group this week.
Additional Commentary

Point 1: The successor commits fully to the mission (1 Kings 19:19-22).

“Elijah accepts the Lord’s reassurances and anoints Elisha. Like the widow (17:24), the people on Mount Carmel (18:39–40), and Ahab (18:41–19:1), Elijah has experienced the power and healing of God. So he sets out to obey God, fully aware that God is his strength and his word will not fail. Elijah throws his cloak, or mantle, upon Elisha, a symbolic way of transferring the prophetic power from one man to the next. Elisha says farewell to his family, then slaughters his oxen and burns his plow, which demonstrates the clear break between his old and new lives. Jesus reflects on this type of separation when he states, ‘No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God’ (Luke 9:62). Elisha seems to know he must take a single-minded approach to the difficult task he will assume. For now he recedes into the background of the story but will step forward again in 2 Kings 2:1.”

“Elisha recognizes the honor immediately, and is willing to enter into Elijah’s service after first bidding his family goodbye. Elijah’s reply means, ‘Yes, go back, but remember what I have done to you’ (19:20). Elisha makes a clean break with his profession. He makes the community a farewell meal using the farming implements as firewood and the oxen for meat. He then takes up his position as Elijah’s assistant (19:21). The Hebrew term used is the same as that used for Joshua in Moses’ service (Ex. 33:11). He is in training for the role of prophet when the era of Elijah (‘My God is Yahweh!’) will become the era of Elisha (‘God saves!’).”

Point 2: The successor requests God’s power to complete the mission (2 Kings 2:6-12a).

“chariots of fire and horses of fire. The divine army, last encountered waging war on Ahab (1 Kings 22:1-38), has come for Elijah; Elisha sees it, as he will see it again in 2 Kings 6:8-23. In biblical tradition, both chariotry and fire have strong associations with God’s self-disclosure. Both images come together in the most common natural form of divine appearing (‘theophany’) in the OT: the thunderstorm—the storm cloud representing the divine chariot or throne (Ezek. 1; Hab. 3:8) and the fiery lightning bolts representing the divine weapons (Ps. 18:14; Hab. 3:11). In response to this particular theophany, Elisha took hold of his own clothes and tore them in pieces. This is perhaps part of a mourning ritual (cf. Gen. 37:34; 2 Sam. 13:31; Isa. 37:1), but it is also suggestive of leaving his old life behind, as he picks up instead the cloak of Elijah (used in 1 Kings 19:19-21 to symbolize Elisha’s prophetic call).”
“Normally an heir would ask for property, goods or cash. However, in this case Elisha requested a portion of Elijah’s spirit, either because Elijah did not have any material goods or more likely because Elisha was to be Elijah’s spiritual heir, having been appointed to succeed Elijah as prophet. When Elijah was eventually taken up to heaven, Elisha received a double portion of Elijah’s spirit. Yahweh’s and Elijah’s spirits settled on Elisha, making him a particularly powerful prophet. Elisha was empowered and transformed into a state of being that was similar to Elijah’s. Elijah therefore had one portion of divinity (Yahweh’s Spirit), while Elisha had two, Yahweh’s and Elijah’s spirits: double the power, twice the intensity. This was demonstrated symbolically when Elisha removed and tore his garment, not only to mourn the passing of his mentor but also to show that he had shed his old being. He had inherited the prophetic spirit of Elijah, symbolized by donning his master’s mantle.”

Point 3: The successor is confirmed by a sign to begin the mission (2 Kings 2:12b-15).

“the water was parted … and Elisha went over. The Spirit who empowered Elijah has now come upon Elisha, and miracles immediately follow. As Elijah’s true successor, Elisha is able to repeat Elijah’s action in parting the waters (vv. 13-14). There is also a kind of parallel in the life of Joshua, for Joshua also crossed the Jordan in Joshua 3 and entered the land of Israel near Jericho, ‘repeating’ Moses’ action in parting the waters (Ex. 14).”

“When Elijah was about to be taken into heaven by the Lord, Elisha knew it. Three times Elijah said he would go on ahead alone, but Elisha would not let him. Elisha wanted to stay by his master’s side. His desire to be like Elijah was so great that when Elijah asked what he could do for his disciple, Elisha asked for a double share of Elijah’s spirit. ‘Double share’ is the allotment of the first-born son in the laws of Moses. In Jewish tradition, the eldest son was to take care of his parents for the rest of their lives. Thus, he received twice as much as other heirs … God granted Elisha’s desire to be like his master, allowing him to perform great miracles. Twice as many miracles were recorded in the books of Kings from Elisha’s ministry than were recorded from Elijah’s ministry.”

References
2. Charles Spurgeon, in Charles Spurgeon’s Classics (Charles River Editors, 2016) [eBook].
The prophetic books of the Old Testament can be confusing, both to the newcomer to the Bible and the longtime reader. Where do these prophets fit in the overall narrative of Israel and Judah? What messages did they communicate? What was God doing in and through their work? The benefit of this volume of *The Gospel Project* is that it gives you a glimpse of the prophets right at the point their message was going forth to God’s people. We can ask questions of God with Habakkuk, look forward to the coming Suffering Servant with Isaiah, stand amazed at the stunning picture of relentless love in Hosea, and learn something of God’s extravagant love with Jonah.

As you work through the sessions in this volume, keep an eye on all the different ways God reveals Himself and communicates His messages of judgment and grace. Fall to your knees in awe, and then stand up and boldly proclaim the love of this great God, who inspired the prophets to deliver His word.