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Biblical Character Mentorship Paper

Mentoring is wisdom teaching as we see in Proverbs 27:17, “Iron sharpens iron”. It is one person giving advice and analysis in a mutual relationship that helps another person to coordinate their ideas and methodologies to succeed in life. Mentors support, encourage, and teach out of mutual respect for their mentee. Leadership and mentoring can shape the ideas, actions, passion, and achievements of followers through emerging events. Mentors cultivate relationships as supporters, encouragers, and teachers to those less experienced. Mentors provide their mentees with feedback that helps to foster their growth and improvement. Being a mentor can be a nurturing, intentional, insightful, and encouraging practice that validates a person’s ability to lead.

Elijah inspired and taught Elisha, who assumed Elijah’s ministry. Elijah’s leadership role was serving as Israel’s prophet. God told Elijah to anoint Elisha to become a prophet. Elijah mentored Elisha for over six years, developing a relationship that allowed Elisha to mirror the miracles Elijah had performed. Elisha’s heroic exploits are like his mentor’s. Elisha multiplied the widow’s oil and restored a Shunammite woman’s son from death. Elijah was intentional about

nurturing his relationship with Elisha. He asked Elisha to request a final act before he left earth. Elijah realized that Elisha needed to obtain his spirit to achieve miracles. He understood that Elisha would receive his request for a double portion of his spirit by witnessing his transition into heaven. Elisha moved toward maturity in God when he picked up Elijah's cloak, called on Elijah's God, and demonstrated the work of Elijah as the next prophet. Good mentors make wise decisions that inspire and encourage their mentees through examples of modeling. Elisha demonstrated the perseverance, and strength of his mentor by shadowing and communicating with Elijah from Gilgal to the Jordan river.

After Elijah departed in a whirlwind into heaven, Elisha accepted Elijah's mantle and called on the name of the God of Elijah. Elisha was called to develop as a prophet, he served with a servant's heart making the life of the people and his surroundings better through the power of God. Elisha was attentive, patient, resilient, and reliable. He had an excellent rapport with Elijah and even referred to Elijah as his father. The leadership styles of Elijah and Elisha illustrates the affinity that they enjoyed as prophets. They show a good example of how to model a smooth succession to the next generation. Elijah had done such a good job of mentoring that his mentee had no problem going out on his own with the same strength and faith. Elijah used leadership formation through mentoring to assist

Elisha in creating his leadership abilities to become the next prophet of God with a double portion of Elijah's spirit.

As a mentor I had to ask myself; Am I preparing my mentee to become a leader or am I making her too dependent on me? If a mentor allows their mentee to become too dependent, the mentee will not know what to do when they are out on their own. Which defeats the point of mentoring as it would have a very negative effect. It is essential that leaders understand how to lead in a way that their mentee learns from their strength and abilities. What I have learned thus far as a mentor is that mentoring can be very rewarding. I have watched my mentee Danielle grow and transform so much within this last year. It is a beautiful experience. She is a good observer and quick learner and was able to step in and take over the ministry with ease. When issues arise, she knows how to handle things and how to deal with different personalities. Our personal relationship has grown as well as I call her my Little Sister and she calls me her Big Sis. I have been preparing her to start seeking out and training the next leader for the ministry through observation and prayer.

Mentoring is a transferring of knowledge from one person to another. It can require that you be creative in your implementation, but mentoring doesn't have to be complicated. I look forward to mentoring others as I grow in ministry by passing on the knowledge and wisdom that God has given me. I want to see them succeed in what God has called them to do.