Look Closer: Putting on the Mantle

II Kings 2:1-18: Elijah Is Carried to Heaven



Teacher Background

Every detail in the stories of the Word pictures an aspect of the life of our spirit. Each object or event represents a specific spiritual quality. The prophets Elijah and Elisha represent the Lord as we see Him in the stories of the Word.

Elijah's earthly mantle protected him, keeping him warm at night and cool in the hot sun. Just as Elijah's mantle would be the first thing a person saw when they looked at him, the literal stories of the Word are the first thing we see when we read the Lord's Word. They are the outermost "clothing" of God's message. Elijah's mantle protected his body in a way similar to the way that truths of the Word can protect us when we use them to clothe our minds, e.g. by knowing that life continues after death, we are protected against a false sense of grief that someone's life is over when they die. Like Elisha we are invited to take up this "mantle" and clothe our spirits by learning its truths, and grow spiritually by putting the truth into action in our lives. Today's activity focuses on moving forward with the truth.

Supplies Needed for the Class

- piece of fabric large enough to drape over the shoulders like a mantle that may be cut into pieces and sent home with each student
- quotes from the Word (see attached)
- safety pins or tape to attach quotes from the Word to the mantle
- sharp scissors



Teacher Preparation

- print and cut out the quotes
- attach the quotes all over the fabric

© 2020 General Church of the New Jerusalem

Page 2 - Putting on the Mantle

Warm-up Discussion

- When one person takes up a job that has been done by another person, e.g. a new president comes into office, we sometimes say that they are "taking up the mantle" of another person. Where does the expression "to take up the mantle" come from?
- Today we might call a mantle a cloak or a coat. It is a protective outer covering. We can take if off completely if we are hot, or pull it tight about our shoulders to keep ourselves warm.
- The Word also has a protective outer covering. It is the literal stories that we read there. If we look deeply into the stories of the Word we can find out what the Lord is like, how He loves us, and what He wants for us.
- Elijah represents the Lord in relation to the Word. His mantle—his outermost clothing—is like the stories there. The Lord Himself is veiled inside the stories.
- Elijah's mantle had the Lord's power in it. Both he and Elisha used it to part the Jordan River. The stories in the Word have the Lord's power within them so that He may do miracles in our lives.

Activity



1. Invite the students to sit in a circle.
2. Show them the "mantle" you have prepared.
3. Pass the mantle around, inviting each student to first wrap the mantle around their shoulders, and then choose a quote to read aloud to the group.
4. When all of the students have taken a turn, pass the mantle around again with a sharp pair of scissors and invite each students to choose a quote that they would like to take home with them.
5. Invite them to cut out the part of the fabric that their chosen quote is pinned to.
6. The mantle will then be passed to the next member of the group.
7. Repeat until all students have a piece of the mantle

Wrap-up

1. Elisha received the mantle from Elijah after following him faithfully from place to place. He went wherever Elijah went.
2. Take the truth that you have chosen and try to follow it faithfully this week. Think about the truth you have chosen in the morning and evening and bring it to mind when an issue comes up during the day.
3. Complete the process with a prayer (see attached prayers for ideas).

He has shown you, O man, what is good;
And what does the Lord require of you,
But to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6:8

"If you love Me, keep My commandments. He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word. He who does not love Me does not keep My word."

John 14:15, 21, 23-24

"You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Matthew 22:37-40

"If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed, and you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."

John 8:31-32

The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, And He delights in his way.
Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the Lord upholds him with His hand…
The law of his God is in his heart;
None of his steps shall slide…
Wait on the Lord, And keep His way;
And He shall exalt you to inherit the land.

Psalm 37:23-25, 31, 34

"Behold, I send an Angel before you to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared."

Exodus 23:20

"I am the resurrection and the life.
He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die"

John 11:25-26

The Lord leads a person as if by the hand, permitting and withholding as far as a he is willing to follow in freedom. If a person looks to the Lord, he is brought by continual steps out of hell up towards heaven and into heaven.

Apocalypse Explained 1174:2

The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.
He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside the still waters.
He restores my soul;
He leads me in the paths of righteousness
For His name's sake.

Psalm 23:1-3

"Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever."

Matthew 6:13

The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord;
He is their strength in the time of trouble.
And the Lord shall help them and deliver them;
He shall deliver them from the wicked,
And save them,
Because they trust in Him.

Psalm 37:39-40

"Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'…But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

Matthew 6:31,33

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Psalm 51:10

Trust in the Lord, and do good….
Commit your way to the Lord,
Trust also in Him,
And He shall bring it to pass.

Psalm 37:3, 5

Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law;
Indeed, I shall observe it with my whole heart.
Make me walk in the path of Your commandments,
For I delight in it.

Psalm 119:34-35

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul,
and with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.

Luke 10:27

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Matthew 6: 19-21

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another as I have loved you…."

John 13:34

"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

Matthew 5:27-28

"Whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets"

Matthew 7:12

Show me Your ways, O Lord;
Teach me Your paths.
Lead me in Your truth and teach me,
For You are the God of my salvation;
On You I wait all the day.

Psalm 25:4-5

"When I sit in darkness, the Lord will be a light to me."

Micah 7:8

Asking the Lord a question is done by consulting the Word. For the Word has the Lord present within it. He is present there because the Word consists of Divine Truth that comes from Him.

Arcana Coelestia 10548:2

"Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

Luke 11:28

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him….

Revelation 3:20

Direct my steps by Your word, And let no iniquity have dominion over me.

Psalm 119:133

Cause me to hear Your lovingkindness in the morning,
For in You do I trust;
Cause me to know the way in which I should walk,
For I lift up my soul to You.

Psalm 143:8

Let us search out and examine our ways,
And turn back to the Lord; Let us lift our hearts and hands To God in heaven.

Lamentations 3:40-41

Thus says the Lord of hosts: Execute true justice, Show mercy and compassion everyone to his brother.

Zechariah 7:9

You shall not hate your brother in your heart…. You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

Leviticus 19:17-18

"If one of your brethren becomes poor, and falls into poverty among you, then you shall help him, like a stranger or a sojourner, that he may live with you."

Leviticus 25:35

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

"Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me."

Matthew 25:34-46

Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I believe Your commandments.

Psalm 199:66