



You Can Overcome the Fear of the Future! | Week 3 DISCUSSION GUIDE

OVERVIEW

A greater fear than living with uncertainty about the future is the risk of missing the opportunity to impact the next generation. The church is always just one generation away from extinction. In this message, we are inspired to get out of our comfort zones and leave a spiritual legacy.

DISCUSSION

1 Kings 19:15-18: *The Lord said to him, “Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet. Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu. Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and whose mouths have not kissed him.”*

Despite Elijah's fear and the threats against him, God called him to anoint new leaders, ensuring that His work would continue. This act of passing the spiritual baton is portrayed as one of Elijah's greatest achievements, emphasizing that the continuation of faith depends on each generation engaging and empowering the next. As God reminded Elijah, even in moments of fear and uncertainty, our greatest days can come from investing in the future.

- How can we, like Elijah, overcome our fears and uncertainties to invest in the spiritual growth of the next generation?
- In what ways can we actively pass on our faith and values to ensure that our spiritual legacy continues?

How Do We Pass The Baton to the Next Generation?

1. Trust that God is moving, despite what we may see.

The next generation is God's chosen plan for the future, and He believes in their potential even when we doubt it. By investing in kids, teenagers, and young adults, we align with God's vision and recognize the work He is already doing. We are challenged to see the next generation as God does and to actively shape the future with faith—rather than fear.

- How can we better align our perspective with God's view of the next generation?
- What are practical ways we can invest in and support the spiritual growth of young people in our community?

2. **Engage with the next generation.**

We are surrounded by opportunities to engage with the next generation daily, but our willingness to do so often depends on our perspective. We will not engage with those we've already judged. The story of Elijah and Elisha shows us that to pass the spiritual baton, we need to engage with action, showing the next generation how much we care. So, how do we engage? Don't just speak; show. Rather than just telling them what to do, we should demonstrate our trust, commitment, and love through our actions, making it clear that we are in this with them.

- Who is someone you personally know from the next generation? What actions can you take to show them that you care about them and believe in their potential?

3. **Ask God, and obey.**

2 Kings 2:9: *When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?" "Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit," Elisha replied.*

Ask God what He would have you do. Legacy begins when we step out of our comfort zones, regardless of our age. Like Elijah passing the baton to Elisha, we are all in the exchange zone and must actively invest in the next generation before it's too late. Just as in a relay race, the success of our legacy depends on how well we pass the baton, making sure we are close enough to make the exchange while we still can.

- What comfort zones do you need to step out of to begin passing on a spiritual legacy?
- How can we ensure we are close enough to the next generation to effectively pass the baton?
- What can we learn from Jesus about making the ultimate exchange and impacting others?

LIFE CHALLENGE

This week, challenge yourself to step out of your comfort zone and actively engage with the next generation. Ask God how you can be part of passing the spiritual baton, demonstrating your trust, love, and commitment to those who will carry on the legacy of faith.