[Narrator] Today's story from Scripture is about how, sometimes, God calls us to follow, even through changes that are hard. as we'll see in our story, when we follow God through changes very wonderful things can happen. Sometimes, When we follow God, we can feel really excited, sometimes when we follow God we can feel sad. But, like Elisha learns, when we follow God through changes God is with us.

In our story today are Elijah the Prophet, and his young friend and apprentice the prophet Elisha. Before our story begins, God showed Elijah that Elisha was who God had chosen to follow him as a prophet. Elijah followed God by training Elisha so that he could be a great prophet like Elijah was. We don't know how long they've been learning together, but we do know that Elisha has learned a lot and that he admires Elijah. Also in our story are other prophets who have gathered together to worship. They also admire Elijah but aren't with him all of the time like Elisha is. Also in our story is a mysterious fiery chariot, we'll learn about that as we tell the story. One more thing you need to know. You will see Elijah carrying something called a mantel. It is kind of like a coat, a warm piece of cloth that can be used to keep you warm during the day, and especially at night. The mantel of Elijah is an important part of our story as you will see.

[Scene]Elijah and Elisha come on. Elijah has mantel over his shoulder.

[Elijah] Well, we're nearly at Gilgal. You know Elisha, you are looking a little tired, and God wants me to go to Bethel. Maybe you should stay here and...

[Elisha] No, I'm not tired at all. I'm going to follow you to Bethel and anywhere else you may go.

[Elijah] Well, alright. I just get concerned about you some times.

[Scene] other prophets are in group as Elijah and Elisha walk up. One of them comes over and takes Elisha aside.

[Narrator] So off they went to Bethel where they met up with a group of prophets they knew.

[Prophet] Elisha, did you know that God is going to take Elijah up in a whirlwind today? Aren't you excited? Do you think that you'll be the next prophet or...

[Elisha] I know that God is going to take Elijah and I don't want to talk about it. Please leave me alone, I want to spend all of the time that I can with him.

[scene] Elisha goes back to be with Elijah.

[Elijah]Elisha, why don't you stay here with our friends. God just called me to Jericho and I'm leaving right now.

[Elisha] No, I'll come with you.

[Scene] Elijah and Elisha start off followed by other prophets.

[Narrator] At Jericho the same thing happened. They met more prophets, Elisha didn't want to talk, and Elijah decided that where he really needed to go was to the Jordan river. Now, Elijah and Elisha are standing at the banks of the Jordan river and the other profits are watching.

[Elijah] Well Elisha, I think you know that God is going to take me away today.

[Elisha] Yes, I know that and it makes me sad.

[Elijah] In some ways it makes me sad as well, but I'm also very excited about being with God. Before I go, what can I do for you to say good bye?

[Elisha] When you go, I want to be able to follow God as well as you do. I want God to give me all of the power that you have. I want to be able to do more of the good things you have done as you followed God. I want to help people and to tell the kings when they are doing bad things like you have always done.

[Elijah] I don't have the authority to give you that, but maybe it will happen, it's up to God. If you see me being taken then you will have all of my power. Let's get going.

[Narrator] So, Elijah took his mantel, folded it up, and struck the water of the Jordan river. The river stopped flowing and Elijah and Elisha walked across on dry ground to the other side. After they crossed, the river started flowing again. Elijah and Elisha kept walking and talking and then, what Elisha had dreaded happened. A fiery chariot came down and went between Elisha and Elijah. Elijah was picked up, dropped his mantel, and was never seen again.

A sad Elisha picked up Elijah's mantel, it was his now with all of the responsibility of being a great profit. He returned to the river, struck the water that again stopped, just like when Elijah struck it, and he returned to the profits who were waiting on the other side.

[Elisha] Everyone, Elijah is gone. He's gone to be with God and his mantel and work have fallen on me. Let's go home and continue to follow God by doing what God wants us to do.

[Narrator] This is how this change happened. Elisha was sad, because he'd lost his friend and spiritual father, but he knew that God was with him. He knew because he had followed God, and God had been with him through this change, just like God is with us when we follow god through change.