Connect Study - Vision Casting Day

This year our theme is to impact the seven worlds - business, education, religion, government, SEA (sports, arts, and entertainment), media, and family. We are called to be salt and light. The church is like a salt shaker. On Sunday we gather together, but during the week we need to be scattered as salt all over the sphere that God has called us to.

The church has shifted to a different level. There is a revival atmosphere in the church. We need to know how to host as well as to break through to the next level.

In 2 Kings 2, Elijah and Elisha were travelling together. The Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind. They travelled through Gilgal—Bethel—Jericho—Jordan River.

1. We need to move on. We notice there’s a progression to the journey. There are several principles that we can learn:
   1. Determination to progress

As they were travelling from Gilgal, Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here…”. But Elisha replied, “As surely as the Lord lives and you yourself live, I will never leave you”. So they went down together to Bethel (2 Kings 2:1-2). We must not be satisfied with just staying in one place. Bishop Alexei gave a prophecy about the multiplication of campuses in ICC, and he specifically mentioned that “we are not to stay in one place…”

* 1. Loyalty

Elisha was loyal to Elijah. He stayed together with his prophetic father. We need to stay together if we want to experience revival and see the prophetic destiny of the church come to pass. Perseverance and faithfulness are vital in being vision partners.

* 1. Hunger

Elisha asked for a double portion of the anointing from Elijah. Elijah’s response was “If you see me when I am taken from you, then you will get your request. But if not, then you won’t”. Elijah made it clear that Elisha had to be there at the point of encounter to receive the double portion of the Spirit. If God has promised a spiritual outpouring, would we have the hunger to pursue His presence?

1. Move from one stage to another

Each one of the places that they travelled to has great significance.

* Gilgal – this was the place where the reproach against God was removed. It was the place where all the young men who grew up in the wilderness were circumcised. It speaks of cutting away. It signifies our past has been dealt with.
* Bethel – speaks of the house of God. In Gen 28, Jacob came to this place where he had a vision of a gateway to heaven. He named the place Bethel, meaning the house of God, and built an altar there. We need to build the altar, God will build the house.
* Jericho - a place of breakthrough. It’s about advancing God’s kingdom and taking ground, even in those seemingly impossible places.
* Jordan - a place where the supernatural begins to break out. A place of revival and miracles. In Ezekiel’s vision, the river from the altar of God continued to increase in depth and volume. First it was ankle deep, then it was knee deep, then waist deep, then eventually one would be carried away by the currents. Similarly, we want to be led by the Spirit of God. It is important to have vision, but we must not be driven by vision, but instead be led by the spirit of God. Abraham had the right vision of having a child, but he took the matter into his own hands and produced a child by Hagar. We can be vision-driven but be led by the flesh. We want to be led by the spirit of God and produce a God-promised inheritance.

Discussion questions:

* What was your biggest takeaway point from the Sunday sermon?
* How can we create spiritual hunger within ourselves and in others?
* What are some of the obstacles for staying together as a church and a body of believers? How can we create greater unity as a connect group?
* Which stage do you think you are at, e.g. Gilgal, Bethel, Jericho or Jordan? What do you need to do practically to go to the next level?