



**EDER FINANCIAL RETIREMENT READINESS SEMINAR CLERGY  
ETHICS FOR RETIREMENT  
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN OFFICE OF MINISTRY**

**SCRIPTURES FOR REFLECTION ON TRANSITIONS IN MINISTRY**

**A. Elijah to Elisha**

- a. Scripture Text – 2 Kings 2:1-15
- b. Key Verse – “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.”
- c. Reflection Questions:
  - i. What is the nature of the transition taking place in this scripture? What kinds of roles does this transition involve?
  - ii. What are some of the challenges faced by the characters in this story that cause them to struggle with the transition?
  - iii. How does this transition speak to your current experience of role transition?

**B. Saul to David**

- a. Scripture Texts
  - i. 1 Samuel 15:24-35 – Samuel rejects Saul as king
  - ii. 1 Samuel 18:10-16- Saul tries to kill David
  - iii. 1 Samuel 22:6-8 – Saul is jealous of David
  - iv. 1 Samuel, chapters 24 & 26 – David spares Saul’s life on two occasions
- b. Key verses – “I have been a fool and have made a great mistake.” (Saul in 1 Sam 26:21b) “I would not raise my hand against the Lord’s anointed. As your life was precious today in my sight, so may my life be precious in the sight of the Lord, and may he rescue me from all tribulation.” (David in 1 Sam. 26:23b-24)
- c. Reflection Questions:
  - i. What is the nature of the transition taking place in this scripture and what kinds of roles does this transition involve for each character?

- ii. What are some of the challenges faced by King Saul in this story that caused him to struggle with the transition?
- iii. How does the narrative of Saul and David speak to your current experience of role transition?

#### C. Moses to Joshua

##### a. Scripture Texts

- i. Numbers 27:12-23 – God appoints Joshua as Moses’ successor
- ii. Numbers 32:1-12 – God chooses Joshua and Caleb who have unreservedly followed the Lord
- iii. Deuteronomy 32:48-52 – Moses’ death foretold
- iv. Deuteronomy 34:1, 4-9 – Moses dies, and all Israel weeps for him
- v. Joshua 1:1-3, 5 - God calls Joshua to lead the people of Israel

- b. Key verse – “Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the Lord had commanded Moses.” (Numbers 34:9)

##### c. Reflection Questions:

- i. How would you contrast the nature of Moses and Joshua’s roles as leaders of the people of Israel?
- ii. Do you sense any conflicted feelings between the two? How did their roles differ and what did they each contribute?
- iii. How does their experience mirror or contrast with your transitions?

#### D. Naomi to Ruth

##### a. Scripture Texts

- i. Ruth 1:8-12a, 14 – Naomi initiates changes in her family’s roles
- ii. Ruth 3:1-5 – Naomi intervenes in Ruth’s life choices
- iii. Ruth 4:13-17 – Naomi celebrates the culmination of transitions she has initiated over the years

- b. Key Verse – “[This child] shall be a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has borne him.” (Ruth 4:15)

##### c. Questions for reflection –

- i. What life events prompted Naomi’s desire to transition from life in Moab to a return to Bethlehem?
- ii. How do you view the shrewd intervention of Naomi in Ruth’s life choices in chapter 3? How was this action a part of God’s overarching story?
- iii. How does Naomi’s assertive intervention in Ruth’s life over the years strike you and how does it speak to your current life decisions as you approach retirement?

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