

Naaman is Healed

Scripture Reference: [2 Kings 5](#)



Suggested Emphasis: Obey God, even when parents or teachers are not around.



Background Study



Story Introduction



Telling the Story



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Story Overview:

Naaman, a wealthy military man from the country of Aram (Syria) had leprosy. A young girl who had been captured from Israel and taken away from her parents was the servant of Naaman's wife. The girl suggested that Naaman should go to the prophet, Elisha, in Israel to be healed. When Naaman followed Elisha's instructions and dipped in the Jordan River seven times, he was healed of his leprosy.

Background Study:

Aram (modern Syria) was the country northeast of Israel. Naaman was commander of the king's army in Aram. The king of the Arameans (air-uh-ME-uhnzh) was pleased with Naaman's military victories and referred to him as his servant (2 Kings 5:6), a term used for high officers in the army. He was a valiant soldier, having led his army to victory many times. Naaman was probably a wealthy man. He owned servants including a young girl from Israel who was his wife's servant. This little girl had been taken away from her parents in a raid and brought to the foreign country of Aram.

Naaman was ill with leprosy, which made him physically unable to perform his duties. He would not be able to lead the army to further victories for Syria if the disease was not stopped. Leprosy was a highly contagious disease so people would shun anyone with it. Because of Naaman's position, he was permitted to stay in his own home, possibly living in separate rooms from the rest of the family.

It is interesting that this young servant girl from Israel wanted to help her master. She could have just taken the

attitude that he deserved what he got. After all, these were the people that took her away from her family. Instead, she told Naaman's wife that a prophet in Samaria (the capital of Israel) named Elisha could heal her husband (verses 2-3). The fact that this young girl did this also makes plain that she had been taught about God from a very young age. She still loved God and believed in his power even though she was far away from her parents and religious teachers. She believed in God's power enough to take a big chance and tell her mistress about the prophet, Elisha. The fact that Naaman acted on this little girl's suggestion shows a combination of his desperation to be healed and the respect he must have had for this little girl.

Armed with a letter from his king, Ben-Hadad (vs. 5), and gifts of gold, silver, and embroidered garments - Naaman went to Israel's king to ask for Elisha's help. But the letter frightened Joram. He thought Ben-Hadad was trying to provoke a fight with him. He had no powers to heal this man. Yet if he refused to heal Naaman, the king of Aram would become angry and attack Israel.

God used Elisha to intervene. Elisha heard about the letter and told King Joram not to be angry or afraid. God would heal Naaman.

Naaman went to wait outside of Elisha's humble house. In his pride, Naaman must have had some preconceptions of how he would be cured. He must have been shocked that Elisha did not even come outside to greet him personally. Instead, the prophet sent a servant to Naaman to say that he should wash seven times in the Jordan River (20 miles away) to be cured. Elisha did not stay in his house because he was afraid of leprosy, but rather realized that Naaman had overestimated his own importance. Elisha gave Naaman a command that would test his faith because he had to do something toward his own cure.

In a temper, Naaman stalked off. He pointed out that the rivers of Damascus in Aram were better than the dirty Jordan, anyway.

You really have to give this man credit for listening to his servants! They pointed out how easy it would be for Naaman to just do what Elisha said. He changed his mind, humbly obeyed God's prophet, and was cured of the leprosy. Many years later at the synagogue in Nazareth, Jesus referred to the healing of Naaman (Luke 4:27). Jesus also healed a Gentile from that same region (Matt. 15:21-28).

Elisha's servant, unlike the servants of Naaman, was not faithful to him. Gehazi decided to make some money out of this whole event. After Elisha rejected payment and gifts from Naaman, Gehazi chased him down and asked for payment. Naaman was happy to give the gifts and money. Gehazi hid the money but Elisha immediately knew what he had done. Gehazi was struck with leprosy. The money would have been little comfort, then.

[Background Information on the Divided Kingdom.](#)



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Way to Introduce the Story:

Bring a box of tissues and a glass of water to class today. Act like you are very ill with a cold. Have a drink of the water and then play like you sneeze into a tissue. Talk about how sick you have been feeling lately. Now ask the children if they would like to use your tissue or drink from your glass. "Of course you wouldn't want to use my

tissue! You would catch my germs. You might catch my cold. There are some kinds of diseases that you can catch by touching people who have the disease. In the time of Elisha there was a terrible disease that you could catch that way. It was called leprosy. You could die if you had leprosy. There was no medicine you could take for it. In today's story we are going to find out about a man who had leprosy."

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The Story:

Naaman was the commander of the whole army of the country of Aram. He was very rich. He had many servants. Even his wife had a servant girl. She was a little girl from the country of Israel. She had been captured from her home and brought to the country of Aram to be a slave in Naaman's house. Naaman and his family did not believe in God but the little girl did. Even though she was far away from her parents and from Israel, she remembered the things that her parents had taught her when she was very little. She remembered Elisha, the prophet, and all of the good things he did for God.

Even though Naaman was a commander of the army and very rich, he had a very big problem. He had a terrible disease called leprosy. Leprosy starts out as white spots on the skin. Then the white spots start becoming sores. If the leprosy spots were on a person's hands then their hands could become so sore with leprosy that they could fall off. The spots would spread all over your body and finally you would die. It was a horrible thing to have leprosy because there was no medicine that could make it better.

No one wanted to be around someone with leprosy because they might get leprosy too. Naaman had to stay away from everyone. He could not be a soldier anymore and he could not be with his family. Everyone was sad about Naaman.

No one in the whole country of Aram knew how to help Naaman except the servant girl from Israel. She told her mistress, Naaman's wife, about her God and about Elisha the prophet. Elisha could do miracles because Elisha was a prophet of God. Maybe Naaman could go to Israel and see Elisha.

When Naaman's wife told him about Elisha, he became very excited. He decided to go to Israel and find out if what the girl said was true. Naaman and his servants had to ride very far to get to Israel. They went to King Joram's house and then to the house of Elisha.

When he got to Elisha's house, Naaman sat outside and waited. Naaman was a very important man so he expected Elisha to come outside and give him a very special greeting. Naaman waited but Elisha did not come outside. Instead, a servant came outside and told Naaman that Elisha had a message for him, "Elisha said that you should go and dip in the Jordan River seven times. If you do this then the Lord will take away your leprosy and you will be well."

Naaman was very angry. Didn't Elisha know that he was an important army commander? How dare Elisha tell him to go and wash in the dirty Jordan River! If he wanted to wash in a river then he could have done that back in the country of Aram. Naaman was so angry that he started to head for home.

"Please, sir," said Naaman's servants, "we really want you to be well again. You will die if the leprosy does not go away. It would be an easy thing to wash in the Jordan River seven times. We have come such a long way. Why don't you try it?"

Naaman wanted his leprosy to go away too, so he went to the Jordan River. He went to the river and washed. Then he washed again. He did this seven times just as Elisha had said. Naaman came up out of the water and looked at his skin. The leprosy spots were gone! His skin looked perfect! It was as soft and smooth as a little child's skin.

Naaman went straight back to Elisha's house. Naaman wanted to give Elisha all of the money, gold and silver and beautiful fabrics that he had brought from Aram. But Elisha would not accept the gifts. He had not done this for money. He had told Naaman how to be healed because he wanted Naaman to know that God is real.

"Elisha, since I have been healed of my leprosy, I know that the God of Israel is real. My wife's servant girl was right. From now on I will worship the Lord," promised Naaman. Naaman left and began his journey back to Aram.

Elisha's servant, Gehazi, was not happy. He thought Elisha should have accepted all of the gifts. Gehazi did not tell Elisha but he followed Naaman and told him a lie. Gehazi told Naaman that Elisha had changed his mind and now Elisha wanted the gifts. Naaman was happy to give Gehazi the gifts and then he continued on his journey.

Elisha was very angry with Gehazi for the way he had tricked Naaman. He told Gehazi that now he would have the leprosy that Naaman had had. Gehazi looked down at his skin and saw that he did have leprosy. Gehazi knew that he had made a big mistake.

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Ways to Tell the Story:

This story can be told using a variety of methods. Always remain true to the facts found in the Bible but help children connect to its meaning by using drama, visual aids, voice inflection, student interaction and/or emotion.

[Click here for visual aids and story-telling methods.](#)

[Click here to download these illustrations and slideshow.](#) Be selective. Each teacher is unique so only use the illustrations that best relate to the way YOU are telling the story in THIS lesson. Too many illustrations can be confusing so eliminate any that cover other stories or details you do not wish to emphasise in this lesson.

Review Questions:

1. What disease did Naaman have? Leprosy
2. Who told Naaman how to make his leprosy go away? His wife's servant girl
3. What message did Elisha's servant give Naaman? Dip in the Jordan River seven times to be healed
4. What happened when Naaman dipped in the Jordan River seven times? His skin became clean and smooth
5. Elisha did not accept Naaman's gift, what did his servant, Gehazi, do? Lied to Naaman and took the gift himself

Song Suggestions:

- [My God is So Big Song](#)
- [Rejoice in the Lord Always Song](#)
- Refer to the [Song Page](#) on this website for more options.

Learning Activities and Crafts:

[\(How to choose the best learning activities for my teaching situation\)](#)

Activities:

- Discuss what might have happened if the little girl would not have been in the story.
- Look up "leprosy" in a bible encyclopaedia and discuss the results.
- Trace Naaman's travels on a bible time's map. Compare this with a modern-day map.
- Have children draw a face on the pad of their index finger to make a Naaman puppet. Bring a pan of water and let the children dip "Naaman" seven times.
- Let the children each list good things that their parents have taught them (or that they have learned in bible)

class or from someone good in their life). Ask them if they would remember these things if they were taken away to a foreign country where no one else believed in God. Have children write notes. Begin the letter: "Thank you for helping me. I will always remember these good things that you have taught me..."

Crafts:



- 'Dipping Naaman' Craft: Have children draw a picture of Naaman on a thick piece of paper. Glue or tape a craft stick to the back with only a small portion of the stick remaining behind the picture and most protruding from the bottom. Poke a hole in the bottom of a plastic or paper cup. Stick the craft stick through the hole so that the picture of Naaman can slide in and out of the cup. The children can push the stick in and out of the hole to "dip Naaman in the water" seven times. Decorate the cup if you wish.

Check the [Teaching Ideas](#) page on this website for ideas that are adaptable to any lesson.



[Click here for "Naaman is Healed" printables to print on A4 size paper](#)
[Click here for "Naaman is Healed" printables \(Letter size-USA\)](#)

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Other Online Resources:

- [Colouring page and puzzle worksheets \(Calvary Curriculum\)](#)
- [Craft: Naaman in a cup craft and also a song at <http://kidsandthebible.blogspot.com/2009/01/2-kings-5-naaman.html>](#)
- [Online activities and games at <http://gardenofpraise.com/bibl18s.htm>](#)

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