

# Naaman's Leprosy Is Healed

2 Kings 5:1-14

## **MEMORY VERSE**

2 KINGS 5:14

“So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.”

## **WHAT YOU WILL NEED:**

A plastic glove, baby powder, and a bowl of water.

An 8' to 10' rope and a blindfold.

Construction paper, scissors, as many copies of the “Jesus Loves Us All” template as the number of children in your class.

## **ATTENTION GRABBER!**

### **Leprosy Glove**

You will need a plastic glove, some baby powder, and a bowl with water. Before class begins, put some baby powder into the glove and put the glove on your hand. Try to act embarrassed about your hand and try to keep it hidden. If a child asks you about it, just say, “Oh, it’s really nothing.” Begin to tell the story of Naaman, keeping your glove on through the story.

Your glove will represent the leprosy that Naaman had. When you get to the place in the story when Naaman dips seven times in the Jordan you can then tell your class that maybe that would be a good idea for your hand. Dip your hands in the water seven times, and then remove the glove. Say, “7-6-5-4-3-2-1, Wow!” Allow the children to smell your hand, the baby powder helps your hand smell like a baby, like Naaman’s childlike skin.

When someone in Bible times had leprosy, it was a very hard thing. They stood out from everyone else, and often had to be separated from their family and friends. There was no cure for leprosy, apart from a miracle from God.

## LESSON TIME!

Have you ever seen a miracle? What is a miracle? Is it always something big and spectacular like fire coming down from heaven or can it be a small thing to help us in our daily lives? The dictionary says that a miracle is a thing, fact, or event happening apart from the normal order of events.

What would you do to see or to receive a miracle? Would you travel across the world and pay large sums of money if you were sick and thought you could be healed? In our lesson today, a certain army commander from the country of Syria was willing to do anything it took to be healed, or so it seemed.

### 2 KINGS 5:1

Now Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great and honorable man in the eyes of his master, because by him the LORD had given victory to Syria. He was also a mighty man of valor, but a leper.

Naaman was a great army commander from Damascus, Syria. Because of his army record he was well thought of by both the king and the nation. He was like a hero in his country. And because he commanded a large army he was also very powerful. He was probably quite used to people giving him prompt obedience when he gave a command. When he said, “jump,” most people said, “how high?”

But, Naaman had a terrible illness called leprosy. Leprosy was a contagious disease in which the flesh is slowly eaten away. There was not a cure for leprosy in that day. Because the disease could spread to others, people were afraid to be around a leper. Lepers usually had to live away from their families and friends in special colonies set up for lepers. In fact, in Bible times if lepers were in public, they had to keep a distance from other people and shout, “unclean, unclean” to let people know they were around. Can you imagine having to live like that?

### 2 KINGS 5:2-3

And the Syrians had gone out on raids, and had brought back captive a young girl from the land of Israel. She waited on Naaman's wife.

Then she said to her mistress, "If only my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria! For he would heal him of his leprosy."

Naaman kept suffering day after day from the leprosy. It was getting worse and worse. One day he would have to be separated from the rest of his family. He was desperate to find a cure for it.

During one of the wars, a young Jewish girl was taken captive. She became a servant to Naaman's wife. She told her mistress that there was a prophet of God in Samaria who could help Naaman.

Maybe the girl had met Elisha or had heard about one of the many miracles that God had performed through him. The Lord used this young girl to help Naaman and to lead him to Elisha and the Lord.

The Lord can use any of us. We do not have to be someone great or famous. We can just be doing the simple things that God wants us to do and be used greatly by Him. There are countless people, like Naaman who are in desperate circumstances and need to hear the good news of God's love, power, and salvation.

## 2 KINGS 5:4-6

And Naaman went in and told his master, saying, "Thus and thus said the girl who is from the land of Israel."

Then the king of Syria said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So he departed and took with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothing.

Then he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which said, Now be advised, when this letter comes to you, that I have sent Naaman my servant to you, that you may heal him of his leprosy.

After hearing what the girl said, the King of Syria encouraged the commander to go to Israel to be healed. He sent him to the King of Israel with a large amount of money and goods and a letter of introduction requesting that the commander be healed.

## 2 KINGS 5:7

And it happened, when the king of Israel read the letter, that he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and make alive, that this man sends a man to me to heal him of his leprosy? Therefore please consider, and see how he seeks a quarrel with me."

The King of Israel became very upset. He said that he was not God. He did not have power over life and death. Why was the commander sent to him to heal his leprosy? He thought that King Aram was trying to start another war with him. The King of Israel was in a tough situation, but not too tough for God. How we need to learn to trust the Lord when we get into tough situations.

## 2 KINGS 5:8-9

So it was, when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying, "Why have you torn your clothes? Please let him come to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel."

Then Naaman went with his horses and chariot, and he stood at the door of Elisha's house.

When Elisha heard that the king had become upset and tore his clothes (a sign in those days of mourning or being upset about something) he sent a message for the king to send the commander to him, so "he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel." So, Naaman took his request to the house of Elisha. Elisha knew that God could do anything including healing Naaman. He knew God would use this opportunity to reveal his power to Naaman and to Syria.

## Follow and Obey

In order for Naaman to be healed he had to follow the instructions that the Lord had given to Elisha. Naaman had a choice. He could either obey and receive the healing that God wanted to give him, or he could disobey and miss out on God's blessing. We have the same choice.

This activity will help us to understand what it is like to obey. You will need an 8' - 10' rope and a blindfold. Split the class into two groups. One of the groups will be the rope holders. They can stand on one side and hold the rope chest high. They should hold it in order to make a shape such as a large "V," "W," or "Z."

Next, the other team can take turns guessing the shape. Blindfold one of the children (blindfold before the first group makes their shape) and allow them to hold the rope and move to the other side.

They can then guess what the shape is. Take turns to allow the other children to do it, changing the shape each time.

Explain to the children that it is important to hold onto the Lord and His Word when we follow Him. He will lead us where He wants us to be. God wanted to heal Naaman, so He led him to Elisha. God will lead us if we will follow and obey. **Let us come to the Lord with a humble heart.**

## 2 KINGS 5:10-12

And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean."

But Naaman became furious, and went away and said, "Indeed, I said to myself, 'He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy.'

"Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage.

Elisha told a messenger to go and tell Naaman to wash himself seven times in the river Jordan and he would be healed. Elisha did not even come out to meet with Naaman. Naaman became furious. Maybe he was thinking, "Elisha does not understand how important I am--I am the commander of the king of Syria's army! I've traveled a long way to see him. At least, he can greet me."

Perhaps, Naaman was looking for something spectacular. What Elisha told Naaman to do was very simple. God did not choose to heal Naaman with fire from heaven or trumpets sounding; He asked that he wash in the Jordan seven times. This was too simple for the proud commander, Naaman.

Naaman had to be willing to humble himself, believe God, and do a simple thing. Instead, he got angry. He said that he could have just stayed home and washed in the rivers there. Why did he need to go to the Jordan? In rage, he turned to leave. He almost let pride and refusal to obey stand in the way of the miracle he desperately needed.

God always acts with our best in mind. He knew that in order for Naaman to come to Him, he would need to humble himself and exercise simple faith.

So the Gospel, the Good News of our salvation, is simple. We need not do righteous works or perform certain rituals to be accepted by God. Simply believing in and receiving Jesus Christ will save us--faith in God's Son and acceptance of the work He did on the cross, dying for our sins. For some, salvation is too simple. They feel they *must* do something. May our pride never keep us away from Jesus! **Let us come to the Lord with a humble heart.**

## 2 KINGS 5:13-14

And his servants came near and spoke to him, and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do something great, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?"

So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.



Naaman's servants went after him and reasoned with him. "If the prophet had told you to do something great, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?" Naaman's servants were wise.

Naaman went to the river Jordan and dipped into the river seven times. He was healed! His flesh became whole, clean and smooth like a young child. God had performed a miracle. God is all-powerful. There is nothing too big or too small for God.

How important that we learn to lay down our ideas or opinions and do what the Lord tells us to do. God alone knows what is best for us and can be our guide. Proverbs 3:5,6 states, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."

Again, this is a good picture of salvation through Jesus. We have all sinned. Like leprosy, there is nothing we can do to help our condition. But, when we come to Jesus and ask Him into our hearts, believing and receiving God's gift of salvation, we will be made clean. May we come to Him with humble hearts, acknowledging our need of a Savior. **Let us come to the Lord with a humble heart.**

## Jesus Loves Us All

God loved Naaman even though he was not from the nation of Israel. God loves all people everywhere and wants them to come to Him. God sent His Son Jesus so that any one of us could have eternal life if we would believe in Him. This craft will help us to remember that Jesus loves every child everywhere.

You will need construction paper, scissors, copies of the enclosed template. Use the instructions on the enclosed template for your craft.

Remind the children that God used the young servant girl from Israel to lead Naaman to Elisha for his healing. God can also use us to lead others to come to know Jesus as their savior.

## **PRAYER**

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to be humble when they come before the Lord and to submit their will to His. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.

# Template - Jesus Loves Us All



Directions: Cut out the palette and children above. Paste the palette onto a piece of construction paper (any color). Next, paste a picture of a child over each of the colors on the palette. Next, cut circles out of construction paper (various colors) large enough to cover the pictures of the children. Place the colored circles over the children and paste at one end to form a flap. God loves us all, even though we might be different.