

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 wasn't any cure for it, so for it to be healed would have been a great thing. God wanted to teach Naaman a valuable lesson and used Elisha to do it. Let's look at today's story.

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? This is what a certain army commander from the country of Syria was willing to do in our story.

But God wanted to teach this army commander a very important lesson about being proud. He thought that he was too important to do what Elisha was asking him to do and he almost missed out on a blessing. Sometimes we want God to bless us, but we want Him to do it OUR way. God doesn't work like that, we need to listen to His instructions and obey Him if we want to truly be blessed. We learn from Naaman's life that **We must be humble when we come to the Lord.**

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 very used to people giving him prompt obedience when he gave a command. When he said, "jump", most people said, "how high?"

But he had a terrible illness called leprosy. Leprosy was a contagious disease where the flesh is slowly eaten away. There was not cure for leprosy in that day. Because the disease could spread to others they were afraid to be around them. They usually had to live away from their families and friends in special colonies set up for lepers. Also 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. Could you imagine having to live like that?

In the Bible, leprosy is like an example or picture of sin. We all have the disease of sin and only the Lord can cleanse it. We are going to see in this story an example of salvation as Naaman seeks to have his leprosy healed. **We must be humble when we come to the Lord.**

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 every 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 the commander 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. It is interesting that 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 don't have to be someone great or famous. We can just be doing the simple things that God wants us to do and then be used greatly by him. There is no telling who the Lord would want us to share the good news of salvation with. Maybe there is a Naaman someday that you might get to tell about all of the miracles of the Lord.

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 letter of introduction requesting that the commander be healed. He sent with him a large amount of money and goods to pay for his healing.

The king really liked Naaman a lot and wanted to help him. He must have thought that it certainly couldn't hurt to send Naaman to Israel to try to be healed. What did he have to lose? But all the while the Lord was preparing to teach Naaman a valuable lesson. **We must be humble when we come to the Lord.**

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 wasn't God. He didn't 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 immediately thought of himself. He didn't think about whether or not the Lord could do this, or whether Elisha could do this. He was afraid that if he somehow couldn't do this then there might be a war. How we need to learn to trust the Lord when we get into what seems like impossible 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 would know that there was a prophet of God in Israel. So Naaman took his request to the house of Elisha.

This was the prophet that the servant girl was talking about. As soon as Elisha heard about the request that came to the king, he knew that his God could do anything. He knew that God was going to use this opportunity to reveal his power to Naaman and to Syria. Elisha never questioned whether God could heal Naaman.

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.

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.

It is very interesting what Elisha does. He tells a servant to go and tell Naaman to wash himself seven times in the river Jordan and that he would be healed. Elisha didn't even come out to meet with Naaman. We see here that Naaman became furious. Maybe he was thinking, "Doesn't Elisha 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. He at least can greet me."

The commander became offended because Elisha didn't come out personally. Naaman thought certainly because he was such an important man that Elisha would come out and do something spectacular like calling loudly to God and waiving his hand over the leprosy.

Naaman had in his mind what the miracle should be like. Sometimes people think that God should act in a certain way. When He does something other than what they thought He should do then they get mad. But God always acts with our best in mind. He knew that in order for Naaman to come to Him that he would have to be taught a lesson about being humble. **We must be humble when we come to the Lord.**

Elisha wanted the commander to know that it would take faith in God to be healed. Naaman had to be willing to humble himself and do a simple thing. Instead, he got angry and left. He almost let pride get in the way of his miracle.

What Elisha told Naaman to do was very simple. All he had to do was to go to the Jordan River and wash seven times and he would be healed. Sometimes God works very powerfully in very simple ways. There isn't always the fire from heaven or the trumpets sounding. This was too simple for Naaman.

Naaman said that he could have just stayed home and washed in the rivers there. Why did he need to go to the Jordan? He turned to leave. What a terrible thing if he would have missed out on being healed because he didn't want to obey.

Sometimes people will come to Jesus to be saved. They think that they have to do something, or it can only be certain way. Then when they find out how simple it is, that we can be saved by simply believing, they think that it is too simple and sometimes they walk away. Think about the story of the rich young ruler. He had everything he needed, but his riches were more important than coming to Jesus. The Bible says that he went away sad. May our pride never keep us away from Jesus! **We must be humble when we come to the Lord.**

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 asked you to do some great thing or pay a great price, you would have done it. Why not try this when he tells you to just wash and be clean. Naaman's servants had a lot of wisdom in telling him this. We need to lay down our ideas or opinions about things and do what the Lord tells us to do.

So he went to the river Jordan and dipped into the river seven times and he was healed. His flesh became whole, clean and smooth like a young child. It was a real miracle of God. He was washed and made clean.

This is a picture of how Jesus saves us. We have all sinned and can't do anything about our condition. Like the leprosy there is nothing we can do. But when we come to Jesus and ask Him into our hearts we can be made clean. But we must be humble when we come to Him. **We must be humble when we come to the Lord.**

God hasn't limited His miracles to the Bible times. He does miracles today too. We expect a miracle to be something big and spectacular and sometimes they are. But miracles can happen by doing simple things like Elisha telling the commander to go wash in the river. Maybe the Lord wants to heal us by going to the doctor. The doctor can help us but God always does the healing.

Because God doesn't always answer our prayers the way we think He should, we sometimes think He hasn't answered. We can miss God's miracles because we aren't looking for them or we have our own idea of what it should look like. We think the small things are just a coincidence. They are miracles of God to help us in our daily lives. God is taking care of His people. God sometimes uses miracles to show His love for us.

God is all-powerful. There is nothing too big or too small for God. We need to have faith in Him and know that He knows what is best for us. He has promised to always be with us and to take care of us. **We must be humble when we come to the Lord.**

Jesus Loves Us All

God loved Naaman even though he wasn't 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, to submit their will to His. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.

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.