

God Heals Naaman

Overview

Materials You'll Need

- no extra materials are needed for this lesson



Scriptures

2 Kgs 5:1-19

Bible Truth Objective(s)

God helps all those who come to Him with faith

Behavioral Objective(s)

To learn to follow instructions because God wants His people to follow His instructions

Memory Verse

"Apply your heart to instruction." (Prov 23:12)



Bible Knowledge

Naaman

Naaman was a military commander of the Syrian army during the reign of Ben-Hadad I (2 Kgs 5). Although afflicted with leprosy, he still held his high position. This might suggest that his form of leprosy was not contagious. At the suggestion of a young female Israelite prisoner, he took a letter from his king, along with gifts, to the king of Israel (probably Jehoram), so that he might find a cure for his disease. He was referred to Elisha, who offered him a cure by instructing him to bathe in the River Jordan seven times. Naaman was healed after he humbled himself in front of God. Following his cleansing, he professed faith in the God of Israel.

Elisha

Elisha was a prophet of Israel. Elisha was plowing the fields one day when Elijah (see Lessons 9 and 10) passed by and threw his mantle on him (1 Kgs 19:19). It was a symbolic way to anoint Elisha and allow him to know that God had chosen him

to continue the work of Elijah. Elisha obediently followed. His prophetic call was once again confirmed when he saw Elijah ascend to heaven and was given a double portion of Elijah's spirit (2 Kgs 2:1-12). Although the Bible does record that Elisha performed twice as many miracles as Elijah, Elisha was not trying to outdo his predecessor. By asking for a double portion of his spirit, Elisha was simply asking God to give him spiritual power to do His work.

Elisha began his ministry near the end of King Ahab's reign. Elisha performed many miracles during his work. Some of them included making the bad water good again (2 Kgs 2:19-22), providing the widow with oil so her children did not have to be sold (2 Kgs 4:1-7), raising a boy from the dead (2 Kgs 8-37), making a poisonous pot of food edible (2 Kgs 4:38-41), making an ax head float (2 Kgs 6:5-7), and healing Naaman the leper (2 Kgs 5:1-27).



Understanding Your Students

Four- and five-year-olds seem to talk a lot. However, most of their language revolves around their needs and wants. A lot of times, we will see our students playing together, so it is assumed that social interaction is occurring. But much of the time what is occurring is simultaneous play. There isn't actually much involvement in conversation. True socialized and interactive speech does not become very apparent until a child reaches about six or seven years of age.

Because each child develops their language skills and abilities at different rates, it may be difficult for them to be very expressive when it comes to talking about Jesus. We may find that they will use short

responses such as "God is good," and "He loves me," to describe their relationship with our Lord. These are great beginnings. But in order to strengthen their expressiveness so that they become more open about their feelings for God, we will need to do much probing, and we will also need to engage them in small group discussions that have a specific topic in mind. For example, in today's lesson, we can talk about how a person might feel when he is healed by God. What kinds of things might he say about God? Also make it a point to ask "Why?" when the students say things like "God is good," or "He loves me." The students are just beginning what will be a huge mission for the rest of their spiritual lives. That is why it is crucial to allow them time to develop their skills now at telling others about Jesus, and provide them with plenty of teacher-guided opportunities.



Vocabulary

Prisoner

someone who does not have freedom; he could be in a prison; he could also be forced to do work

Sore

an open wound on the skin; broken skin that did not heal



Before You Teach

In today's lesson, God heals Naaman from leprosy. But before he recognized the power of the almighty God, he first had to submit to the words of Elisha the prophet. In fact, what Elisha told Naaman was simple enough. All the commander had to do was go and wash in the Jordan River seven times. Yet, it was the very simplicity of these instructions that almost caused Naaman to miss the opportunity to come to know God. Perhaps he expected Elisha to tell him to climb three mountains first, or to kill many enemy soldiers so they could be sacrificed to God. Naaman thought he had to pay a heavy price to be healed. But Elisha discarded that notion and only told him to believe.

This is the greatest part of God's salvation. It is free to all who believe in Him. We don't need to do anything to earn it. God's grace is given to every one who confesses Lord Jesus as the Savior.

There are many examples in the New Testament of people being healed because they believed. In Matthew 9:27-29, Jesus healed two blind men. Jesus asked if they believed He was able to help them and the two men answered that they believed. Then Jesus touched their eyes and they were instantly made well. In Mark 9:21-29, a father came to Jesus to ask Him to help his son who was possessed by an evil spirit. Jesus told the father that if he believed, all things are possible. Immediately, the father answered, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief." Then Jesus drove out the evil spirit.

In both of these instances, the people involved were healed right away. It is because of their belief in God's power and authority. Sometimes, the most powerful faith is one that is simple and trusts in God completely. Today we may be praying for someone who has been ill for a long time. Although we may not always understand God's plan and timing, we are reminded in today's lesson to just believe. God will always provide for us.



Bible Story

Elisha Does God's Work

In the last lesson, we learned about a prophet called Elisha. He learned from Elijah, and after Elijah was taken to heaven, Elisha continued to work for God. We learned that Elisha always passed by a certain town. So a family who loved God prepared a room for Elisha to stay in every time he came into this town. God saw how much this family loved Elisha, and so He blessed them with a baby boy. But after the baby grew into a boy, he suddenly died one day. The mother was very sad. She was so sad she ran to find Elisha. When Elisha heard that the boy had died, he went to see the boy. He prayed to God and stretched himself on top of the boy. Then the boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes. Elisha had raised the boy from the dead. He wasn't dead anymore. How was Elisha able to do that? God helped Elisha so that the boy could come back to life. Only God can perform miracles. And Elisha was a good worker for God. He always did things according to God's will.

Today we are going to hear about a man who needed God's help. This man came to Elisha to ask for help. Do you think Elisha was able to help him? Let's find out.

A Young Girl Is Taken Prisoner

A long time ago, during the time when Elisha lived, Israel and Syria were enemy countries. That means the armies of Israel and Syria would fight with each other because they wanted each other's lands. Sometimes Israel would win, and sometimes Syria would win. When the army of Syria invaded Israel, the soldiers would burn down farm houses and steal crops. They also took some people of Israel back home to Syria and made them prisoners or slaves. That means they were not free to do anything. They could only work for the Syrians. In today's story, a girl who was only twelve years old was taken to Syria. She ended up in the house of a commander of the army. A commander of the army is someone who leads the soldiers. This commander's name was Naaman. This young girl worked for Naaman's wife. She had to do whatever Naaman's wife asked her to do. Every day, she worked in Naaman's home and took care of things.

Naaman Has Leprosy

Naaman was a very important man because he had many soldiers who listened to him. He was probably very rich. He should have been happy because he could have whatever he wanted. But Naaman was not happy at all. He was sad. Do you know why he was so sad? He was sad because he was sick. He had a lot of sores on his skin. They came from a disease called leprosy. He was sad because no one or any medicine could make him well. Could the doctors make him well? No. Could his wife make him well? No. But someone knew how to help him. That person was the little servant girl. One day, the little girl told Naaman's wife that a man in Israel could make the commander well.

"If my master Naaman would go and see the prophet, then he would heal him of the leprosy," said the little girl to Naaman's wife. Who was this prophet this girl was talking about? This man was the prophet Elisha. When Naaman's wife heard this wonderful news, she told her husband. When Naaman heard the good news, he ran to tell the king. He wanted the king to give him permission to go to the enemy country and find Elisha.

"Well," said the king, "I will send you to see the king of Israel, and you can bring him a letter to tell him why you are going there."

The king of Syria wanted Naaman to be well too since he was such a good leader of the army.

Naaman Goes to See the King of Israel

So Naaman traveled all the way to Israel. When the king of Israel got the letter from the king of Syria, he didn't know what to do.

"How can I make Naaman better?" asked the king of Israel.

But luckily, Elisha the prophet heard about the letter and Naaman.

He sent his servant to the king and told him, "Send Naaman to me. Then he will know that God is real."

So the king of Israel told Naaman to go see Elisha. Naaman got on his chariot and rode all the way to Elisha's house. When he stood at the door, Elisha sent his servant outside to see Naaman.

The servant told Naaman, "Go to the Jordan River. Wash in the water seven times and you'll be well again."

When Naaman heard this, he was really mad.

Naaman said, "I am not going into that muddy, dirty old river. I want Elisha to come out and call on God to make me better."

But Naaman's servants begged him to try it.

"What Elisha is asking you to do is so simple. You just need to go and wash yourself. Why don't you try it?" they asked.

Naaman thought for a while. At first he was really angry because he expected Elisha to come out and do something amazing to make him better.

But then he thought, "Maybe I should do what the prophet tells me to do."

So he quickly rode to the river.

Naaman Obeys and Is Healed

When Naaman came to the river, he did just as Elisha told him to. He dipped into the water one time, two times, three times, four times, five times, six times. Each time he probably wondered, "Will this really make me well?" Then on the seventh time, after he came out of the water, he looked at his skin. It was completely clean. There were no more sores.

Naaman probably said to his servants, "Look at me! I'm well! I'm finally well!"

Right after he was healed, Naaman went back to see Elisha.

"Now I know that the Lord is the one true God,

and from now on, I'm going to worship the Lord only," said Naaman to Elisha.

Elisha was pleased that Naaman had listened to him, and God healed him of his skin disease. Elisha told Naaman to go home in peace.

We Can Preach and Obey

In today's story, we learned two important things. The first was how the little servant girl told Naaman about God. She was brave and shared what she knew about God with Naaman. If she hadn't said anything, maybe Naaman would never have heard about God and would have stayed sick forever. We can also be brave like the girl and tell others about God and His love. That is called preaching.

The second thing we learned is that Naaman obeyed God, and God healed him. Actually, in the beginning, Naaman didn't want to listen and do what Elisha told him to. He thought what Elisha was asking him to do was silly. He wanted something amazing to happen instead. But we learned that it's always wise to obey the Lord. Even though we may not always understand everything, we know that God only does what is best for us. Our job is to obey and do what pleases God. Let's pray and ask God to help us obey Him all the time.



Check For Understanding

1. **Who was Naaman?** (He was the commander of the Syrian army.)
2. **What kind of sickness did Naaman have?** (He had a terrible skin disease called leprosy. He had sores all over his skin.)
3. **Who told Naaman about Elisha?** (The little girl from Israel.)
4. **What did Naaman do once he heard about Elisha?** (He went to see the king of Syria, who told him to see the king of Israel.)
5. **Could the king of Israel heal Naaman?** (No, only God can heal people.)
6. **What did Elisha's servant tell Naaman to**

do? (He told him to wash himself in the Jordan River seven times.)

7. **Naaman was mad at first, but what did he do after his servants talked to him?** (He obeyed.)
8. **What did Naaman say when he was healed?** (He said he knew there was a God in Israel, and he would worship Him.)
9. **How can we be like the little girl and tell others about God? Who do we know that we can tell them about God?** (Let students respond. Some possible answers: grandparents, siblings, a neighbor, a good friend, etc.)
10. **What can you do to obey God?** (Let students respond.)



Life Application Story

Going to Africa

Cathy stopped by the store with her mom on the way home from school. She wanted to buy a special gift for her father. This was because her father was a pastor, and he was going to Africa the next day. He was going there to tell people about Jesus. He would be there for one whole month.

Cathy decided to buy her father a pen. It would remind him to write letters to her. When Cathy got home, her father was already packing.

"Daddy, I'm home," Cathy called out.

"Hello, Cathy," Pastor Hayes replied from his room. "How was your day?"

"Good," Cathy said as she walked to the bedroom. "Can I help you?"

"You sure can. How about you get my toothbrush?"

Cathy went to the bathroom and got her dad's toothbrush.

"Daddy, why do you have to go away for so long?" Cathy asked.

"Africa is a big place and it is far away. We need time to go and tell people about Jesus," Cathy's father explained. "Not everyone knows about Jesus there."

"Can I go with you one day, when I am bigger?" Cathy asked.

"I am sure that someday you'll be able to go to far-off places to tell people about Jesus too," Cathy's father said. "But you don't have to go to far away places. There are people right here you can talk to about Jesus."

"Who?" asked Cathy.

"There are a lot of our neighbors who don't know about Jesus," Pastor Hayes said. "And some of your friends don't know Jesus either."

"I guess. But how can I tell them about Jesus?" asked Cathy.

"Well, you don't have to give a long talk the way I do in the church. You can just remember to pray before you eat at school, or when a friend invites you to a birthday party on a Saturday, make sure you tell them why you can't go. When you do these things, you are telling others that God is important to you and that is the same as preaching-what I do," explained Pastor Hayes.

"Oh," said Cathy. "I guess I can do that. But sometimes I forget to pray before I eat at school."

"Well, you can start tomorrow and try hard to remember," suggested Pastor Hayes.

He zipped up his bag. "It looks like I'm all done packing."

"No!" Cathy said. "You forgot one thing."

She reached into her pocket and took out the pen. "This is for you so you'll remember to write to me," Cathy said.

Cathy's father gave her a big hug. "I would never forget."

Questions to Think About

1. **Why was Cathy's father going to Africa?** (He was going there to preach the good news.)
2. **What does it mean to preach the good news?** (It means telling others about Jesus and how they can be saved.)
3. **Who are some people you can talk to about Jesus?** (Allow students to answer.)
4. **What else can we do to share Jesus with others?** (Allow students to share. Remind them that their actions and words can also tell others they believe in Jesus. If they are nice, share and speak kind words, that shows others Jesus is living inside of them. They can also use opportunities (e.g. saying grace, not celebrating Halloween or Christmas) to talk about their beliefs.



Activity 1

Naaman Is Healed

Look at the pictures. Put them in the right order. Put a 1 in the first picture, a 2 in the second one, a 3 in

the third one and a 4 in the last picture.

1. The young girl tells Naaman's wife about Elisha.
2. Elisha tells Naaman to go and wash in the Jordan.
3. Naaman goes to wash in the Jordan.
4. Naaman returns to thank God and Elisha.



Activity 2

Who Is Following the Instructions?

Look at each set of pictures. Talk about who is following the instructions.



Activity 3

Thanks to God

In today's lesson, we learned that a man called Naaman was healed because he listened to God. After he became well, he thanked Elisha and God. Sing the following song to help the students remember the story and learn to praise God.

(Sung to the tune of Mulberry Bush)

**Seven baths did Naaman take, Naaman take,
Naaman take.**

**Seven baths did Naaman take, count them all right
now (count to seven).**

**Seven baths and Naaman's well, Naaman's well,
Naaman well.**

**Seven baths and Naaman's well, count them all
right now (count to seven).**

**Thanks to God who made him well, made him well,
made him well.**

Thanks to God who made him well, Alleluia!

Activity 12:1

Naaman is Healed

Look at the pictures. Put them in the right order. Put a 1 in the first picture, a 2 in the second one, a 3 in the third one and a 4 in the last picture.



Activity 12:2

Who Is Following the Instructions?

Look at each set of pictures. Who is following instructions?

