

LESSON 11

NAAMAN AND THE ISRAELITE GIRL

BEFORE YOU TEACH

Leprosy

Leprosy, much like AIDS today, was one of the most feared diseases in biblical times. It probably referred to more than one type or form of the disease. Some forms of leprosy were highly contagious and many were incurable at the time. At its worst, leprosy led to death.

A person with leprosy was often covered in sores. Lepers were usually forced to reside in camps outside of the city and lived as outcasts. If they were lucky, the disease might go away.

Only after a priest deemed them cured could they then enter the city to live among the people again. In the New Testament, the Bible also mentioned that Jesus healed many lepers.

Since Naaman still held his post as commander of the Syrian army and still lived with his family, he may have only had a mild form of leprosy or been in the early stages of leprosy. In either case, he was probably afraid that it would worsen and shorten his life.

Humbleness

In this story, both the Israelite girl and Naaman displayed humility before God. On one hand, even though the Israelite girl was a slave, instead of lamenting and complaining about her unfortunate situation, she seized the opportunity to tell others about her almighty God.

It took a lot of courage and reliance on God for her to speak up. God also put her in that position because of her simple and great faith. By humbling herself before God, she was able to bring much glory to the Lord.

Naaman, on the other hand, was a proud person with a strong character. He was usually the one giving orders and was used to people obeying without questioning, not the other way around.

Even when he was looking for a cure, he expected something elaborate and grand that was fitting of a man in his position. But he didn't receive what he expected; instead, he had to learn to humble himself in order to be healed.

It was not easy for him to dip himself in the Jordan River because he felt that his homeland's rivers were far better. But he was shown that in order to receive God's blessing, it was necessary for him to humble himself before God and to accept His mercy.

BIBLE TEXT

2 Kings 5:1-19

BIBLE TRUTH

God helps all those who come to Him with a humble heart.

LESSON OBJECTIVE

To learn to help anyone in need with a humble heart.

MEMORY VERSE

"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up."

(James 4:10)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Lord Jesus, we know You are almighty. There is nothing in this world that You cannot do. We can do all things if we rely on Your power. Please give us a humble heart and teach us to help those in need, just as the Israelite girl helped Naaman. May all glory be unto Your holy name. Hallelujah! Amen.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

Students can learn much from this story because it contains themes of compassion, humility, and obedience.

The Israelite girl met with great misfortune when she was captured by the Syrians. It was not uncommon for Israelites to be captured and enslaved during these raids from the northeast. The girl could have easily turned against God and lost her faith in such a predicament, but she did not. Instead, she used her reliance on God to help someone.

Naaman, who was a high commanding officer for the king of Syria, also met with misfortune when he was struck with leprosy. While he struggled with Elisha's instructions for a cure at first, he turned around in time to receive God's grace.

Your students may encounter difficult times in their lives, too. Certainly, their problems are likely not as serious as what the Israelite girl endured. For them, a difficulty

could be something that they feel interferes with their own schedule.

Maybe they have been asked to clean up their room when their favorite show is on. Perhaps while they are playing video games, their parents ask them to help set up the table for dinner. In school, they may be asked by a teacher to help a student who is not their friend.

Most of them will usually complain: "I'm doing something else right now, can I do it later?" or "Do I have to?" But they must learn to be obedient and humble. By helping their parents or another person, they are seizing the opportunity to serve God because God wants them to help and obey.

It is important to teach your students not to murmur or complain, no matter how inopportune the time or situation may be. God will be pleased when they learn to help others.

VOCABULARY

leprosy: a serious skin disease, often in the form of sores all over the body

humble: not proud; gentle and lowly

disease: illness; something that makes your body sick

REVIEW

Last week, we learned about another miracle. Whenever Elisha passed through the town of Shunem, he would always stay in the house of a Shunammite woman who had built a room on the roof of her house just to accommodate him.

Elisha was very thankful and wanted to repay the woman's kindness. He told her that she would have a son in about a year's time. Sure enough, the woman gave birth the following year to a baby boy.

But her son became sick one day and, not long after, he died in his mother's arms. She was very sad but she knew that Elisha could help her. She rode a donkey with a servant to Mount Carmel to find the prophet.

After Elisha heard what had happened, he gave Gehazi his staff and told Gehazi to rush to her house and lay his staff on the boy. Did the boy wake up? (No, nothing happened.) Then Elisha went into the room himself, prayed to God, and lay on the boy twice. Then the boy sneezed seven times and woke up. God had raised the woman's son!

She was very happy and thankful to God. We learned from this story that God always helps those who are loving and kind to others.

BIBLE STORY

An Israelite Girl Is Captured

During Elisha's time, there were many battles between the Israelite army and their enemies. Sometimes the Israelites won and sometimes they lost.

One of the battles they lost was to the Syrian army, which resulted in the capture of some of the Israelites, one of them being a young Israelite girl who was taken away to be a slave.

In fact, she became a servant to the wife of the commander of the Syrian army! The commander's name was Naaman.

Naaman's Disease

The young girl noticed that Naaman and his wife were always sad. She wondered why, since Naaman was a high-ranking and well-respected commander who lived a comfortable life with his wife. The girl didn't think this couple had a reason to be unhappy, until she found out why.

She learned that Naaman had a terrible disease called leprosy. His body was covered in sores that hurt a lot! But no one in the whole world knew how to cure it. The girl felt sad for her master, too. But she knew someone who could help him!

The Girl's Advice Brings Hope

One day, the girl decided to tell Naaman's wife about Elisha. She knew that God's prophet would be able to help the commander.

"My master Naaman should go and see Elisha, who lives in Samaria. I know he would cure him of the terrible disease!" The young girl was this confident because she had faith in God and His power.

When Naaman's wife heard this, she was overjoyed! She ran quickly to find Naaman to tell him of this good news. When Naaman heard about this, he became excited, too!

He had never thought that his disease could be cured. But since the prophet lived in Israel, he would first have to ask the king for permission to visit Elisha. He wanted the Israelites to know that he was coming in peace.

Thankfully, the king thought highly of Naaman and readily gave him permission. The king also said, "You go first and I will write you a letter to give to the Israelite king."

Naaman was very happy that things were looking up! He went home to pack for his big trip, taking with him gold, silver, and a lot of clothing.

Elisha's Orders

Naaman traveled until he reached the king of Israel's palace. When he entered, he handed the letter to the king. The letter read: "I am sending you my servant Naaman so that you may cure him of his leprosy." The king became

very nervous after reading it.

He thought to himself, "I am not God. How can I cure Naaman? If I don't cure him, then the Syrians will attack me!"

While he was worrying about what to do, Elisha heard about Naaman's problem. So, Elisha sent a messenger to the king's palace to tell Naaman to come see him. The king felt relieved and immediately sent Naaman to Elisha.

Naaman arrived at the prophet's house, but Elisha was not there to greet him. Instead, Elisha sent a messenger out to meet the commander.

The messenger said to Naaman, "My master said to tell you to wash yourself seven times in the Jordan River, and then you will be well."

Naaman became very angry when he heard this.

He thought to himself, "I believed that Elisha himself was going to come out, call on the name of his God, wave his hand over me and cure me! The rivers back home are better than the ones here in Israel! Couldn't I just have washed in those rivers and been cleansed?"

Naaman Is Cleansed

Just as Naaman was about to leave and go home, his servants stopped him.

"Master," said the servants, "If the prophet had told you to do something very hard, we are sure you would have done it already. How much harder can it be to wash and be clean?"

Naaman thought about it for a while and it began to make sense. So he listened to the prophet's orders and went to the Jordan River. He dipped himself in the waters and when he got up after the seventh time, he looked at his body and realized that the leprosy was gone! He was cured from this terrible disease at last!

Naaman Thanks Elisha

Naaman was very happy that he was healed. Now he knew that there was no other God in this world except for the true God of Israel.

He went immediately to Elisha's house to thank him. He took out the gold and silver, hoping to present them as gifts for the prophet. But Elisha would not accept any gifts. He knew that it was God who cured Naaman and he wanted Naaman to know it, too. Naaman also said that he would only offer sacrifices to the true God from then on.

Elisha praised God and told Naaman to go home in peace.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Fill In the Blank/True or False

1. The young girl was from the land of _____ (Israel).
2. She served the wife of _____ (Naaman), who was the commander of the Syrian army.
3. Elisha's messenger told the commander to wash himself in the Jordan River to cure his leprosy. True.
4. Naaman was told to wash himself in the Jordan River _____ (seven) times.
5. Naaman praised God after he was healed. True.

Questions to Think About

1. In this story, Naaman took the advice of his wife's servant girl and his own servants. They all urged him to listen to the prophet. What do you think would have happened if he had not listened to them?
2. Even though we do not know very much about the girl, what do you think she was like?
3. How do you think Naaman felt about having an incurable disease?
4. What can we do for those people who are sick?

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up." (James 4:10)

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

Help those in need and have a humble heart when doing so.

In today's lesson, we learned about an Israelite girl who was very caring. What did she do? [Let students answer.] She knew that her master was suffering from leprosy, so she called on all her courage and introduced God to her master's wife. Even though the Israelite girl was a slave to her master, she cared about him because she had a compassionate heart. She knew that leprosy could lead to death, and she didn't want her master to die without a chance to know that there was a God who could heal him. Not only was she faithful to her master, she was also very faithful to God. She knew that God was giving her a chance to help her master, and she didn't let the chance slip away. She helped someone in need and had a humble heart when doing so.

What does it mean to have a humble heart? The Bible teaches us to "be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility" (1 Pet 5:5). We must be able to put ourselves in other people's shoes, especially those who are in need, and serve them with humility. God has given us so much that we don't deserve, and He wants us to serve others without asking for anything in return (Lk 17:10). That way, we can fulfill the greatest commandment—to honor God's love by loving one another. God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. His promise will always stand true. We can practice being humble by helping others with a genuine heart and asking for nothing in return!

Now, take a minute to think about the people you see every day. Are any of them in need? In need of what? [Let students think.] In your daily lives, you may find people who are poor, sick, in need a friend, distressed, or spiritually weak. For example, people who sell bottles of water on the road, those who are in the hospital right now, or maybe a friend of yours who's going through family problems. When you think about it, there are many people who are in need! Among them, many are far less fortunate than we are. Wouldn't you agree? How can we help them? How can we be the "Israelite girl" in our daily lives? Let's read a few examples.

1. It was Thanksgiving Day. Sara's family had a great time and a huge dinner together with a few other close families and friends. Since everyone prepared a few dishes for this dinner, they had a lot of leftovers. Sara knew that there were so many leftovers that her family would probably end up throwing a lot of them away. She thought of an idea. In the town where she lived, there were many homeless people. Sara thought that since most people were home celebrating Thanksgiving Day and all the stores were closed, these homeless people must be lonely and hungry. She suggested her family to drive around the town and give their leftover food to the homeless people. That night, they gave away all their leftovers and felt very happy doing so. They knew that God had given them so much and that they should do likewise to others.
2. Sean went to a carnival with his friend, Raymond. They had lots of fun together. At the end of the day, they won many tickets and they were both very excited to exchange these tickets for their favorite prizes. However, Sean knew that Raymond's family is very poor. He had been to Raymond's house and he knew that Raymond has barely any toys. Thinking about how much he has compared to Raymond, he knew that Raymond could use more toys. Sean decided to give Raymond all of his tickets. Raymond asked Sean why he gave him all his tickets, and Sean answered, "Because God has given me so much already!"
3. Rob was a new student in Ian's class who had just moved to this town. Rob appeared very stressed and tired every day when he came to school. Out of concern, Ian talked to Rob during lunch one day. He asked Rob if everything was OK. In their conversation, Ian found out that Rob's stress was caused by the moving company accidentally losing some of his packages, a few of which had all of his school supplies inside. His parents had been so busy with their new jobs that Rob didn't want to worry or trouble them further with his problems. On the other hand, Rob felt that the academic standards of this school were higher than his previous school, and therefore he was having a hard time adjusting and catching up. The next day, Ian brought his extra school supplies to Rob. He said that Rob could use them until he received his lost packages. Also, Ian offered to help Rob with his homework whenever Rob needed it. Ian remembered that God wants His children to be good helpers. Even though Ian had always been one of the best students in class, he never boasted about himself or looked down on Rob. He was very patient and considerate when helping Rob with his homework. Every time Rob asked Ian for help, he would answer, "Sure, I'm most happy to help!"
4. Hugh had just started his senior year in high school. A new year meant new classmates, and Hugh noticed that one of his classmates always sat in the corner and seldom talked to others. He decided to reach out to him and soon enough, Hugh had made a new friend. Over the year, Hugh and Brent became better friends as they spent more time studying and hanging out. Hugh realized that God had brought Brent into his life so that he could share the good news with him. After their study sessions, Hugh would ask Brent if he was interested in reading the Bible with him to learn more about God. At first, Brent politely declined and said he was not interested in religion. However, Hugh did not give up and he continued to invite Brent to study the Bible with him. Thanks to Hugh's persistence and determination, Brent started studying the Bible with him and eventually started coming to church to attend service. Thank God that, in the end, Brent also came to believe and was baptized in the Lord!

Students, how much have you already received from God? Remember, everything we have is from God. Our families, friends, home, clothes, food, health, etc., are all from God. But, many people in this world aren't as fortunate as we are. This is not because they're not as worthy as we are, but because God has a different plan for them. God's plan for us is to learn how to help others with humility. We can make a difference in many people's lives if only we are willing to make an effort. The Israelite girl didn't have to help her master. She didn't have to say anything to her master's wife. Even if her master eventually died, no one would point at her and say that it was her fault for not telling her master about Elisha. But the Israelite girl felt responsible to help. Why? Because she acknowledged that God had always been there for her, to love and protect her, and she owed God for that. Likewise, we owe God a lot for what we have. We must help others and do so with a humble heart. Ask for nothing in return. Sara, Sean, Ian, and Hugh poured their time, money, and energy into other people's lives. They felt joyful when helping others. What can you learn from them? Can you think of a person or persons in your life that you can help in this coming week? How will you help and in what manner will you help? [Let students share.]

Materials

- White cardstock
- Markers
- Tape
- Star stickers (or any sticker with encouraging words)

Instructions

1. Pass out one piece of cardstock to each student.
2. Ask each student to draw a scene that shows a time when they need help, without letting the other students see.
3. Gather all the pictures; you will be using them as flashcards.
4. Now we will play charades. Ask a student to come up and show that student one picture without letting the other students see it.
5. That student will act out the scene in the picture.
6. Other students will need to: a) guess what is happening in the scene; and b) suggest a way to help the person in the scene.
7. Each student that volunteers a way to help will come up and act out the suggestion.
8. Once the volunteer is done acting, give that student a sticker. Ask that student to stick it somewhere on his clothing where no one can see it (inside the shirt, under the jacket/sweater, etc.).
9. Repeat the activity for all the students, or until the flashcards have all been acted out. Tell the students that we always need to be observant and look around to see who we can help. It is also important to remember not to boast about how we have helped someone, just like how we do not let other people see our stickers. Even though other people won't see our many stickers, God will.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. humble
2. leprosy
3. disease
4. False; the Israelite girl was captured during a raid.
5. False; Elisha neither asked for nor accepted any money in return for healing Naaman.
6. True
7. C
8. A
9. B

ACTIVITIES

1

I Believe!**Objective:** To allow students to identify people who showed that they believed in the power of God.**Instructions:** Read each of the following statements and circle the person who made that statement.

1. "Naaman should go and talk to the prophet Elisha. I am sure God will help him."



Naaman's wife



The Israelite girl

2. "Elisha says that you must wash yourself in the Jordan River seven times in order for you to be well."

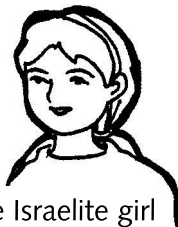


Elisha's messenger



Naaman's servants

3. "My master, I think you should listen to what the prophet says and wash yourself in the Jordan River."



The Israelite girl



Naaman's servants

4. "Thank you, Lord! Now I know there is only one true God. I am so thankful."



Naaman

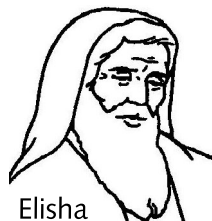


Elisha

5. "I did not heal you. It was by the power and grace of God."



Gehazi, Elisha's servant



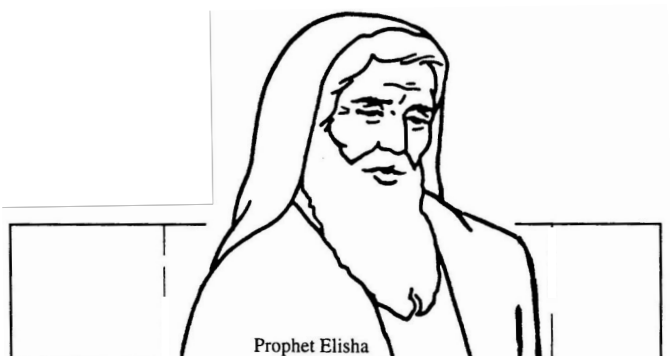
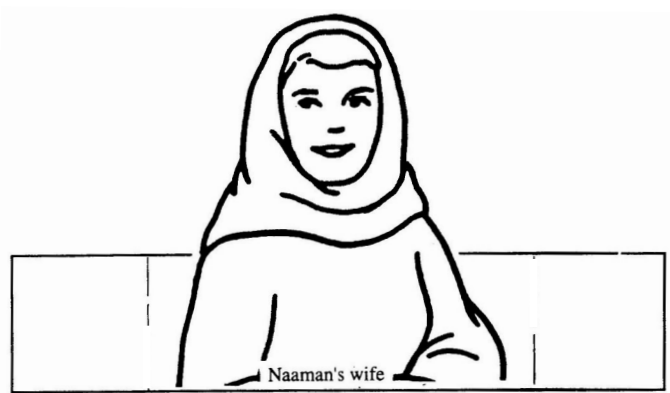
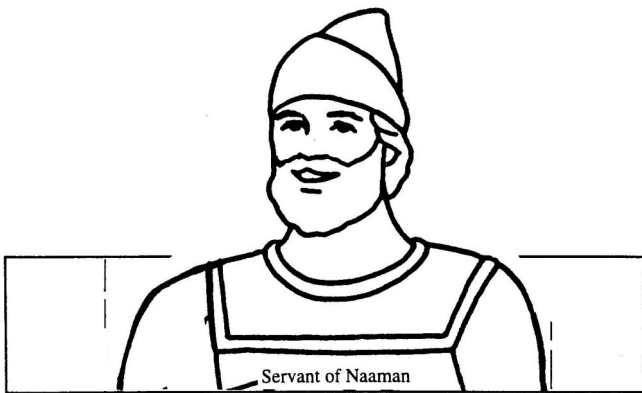
Elisha

2

Know Your Bible People

Objective: To review the story of Naaman.

Instructions: Cut out the finger puppets. The students may want to color them in first. Bring the tabs together and insert the lower slit into the upper slit until the tabs are even. Let students review the story by using these finger puppets. The students can each play one role and the teacher may want to role-play the remaining characters.



E1 Year 2 Book 2 Lesson 11—Naaman and the Israelite Girl

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: God helps all those who come to Him with a humble heart.

Lesson Objective: To learn to help anyone in need with a humble heart.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space provided on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(James 4:10)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

leprosy	humble	disease
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Fill In the Blank

1. When I get a perfect score on a test, I should thank God and be _____. I don't need to brag to everybody about how smart I am.
2. _____ was a common disease in biblical times that gave people painful sores all over their bodies.
3. When a person is very sick, that person has a _____.

True or False

4. The Israelite girl became a servant because she wanted to become one. _____
5. Elisha charged Naaman a fee for the cure. _____
6. Naaman was thankful after being cured. _____

Multiple Choice

7. _____ : Naaman and his wife were sad because _____.
 - a. Naaman was a high-ranking commander
 - b. Naaman and his wife lived comfortably
 - c. Naaman had a terrible disease
8. _____ : The Israelite girl told Naaman that his disease would be cured if he _____.
 - a. Went to look for the prophet Elisha for help
 - b. Spent a lot of money to pay for the best doctors
 - c. Went and washed in the river
9. _____ : Elisha told Naaman to do the following to be cured: _____.
 - a. Take a lot of medicine
 - b. Wash in the Jordan River seven times
 - c. Wash in any river as many times as he wanted