



January 29, 2017

Dear Teacher,

This week we encounter our second story of Elisha's ministry with the healing of Naaman. The story of Naaman is a great reminder of God's power to heal and what grace is. Only God had the power to cure Naaman, and Naaman realizes that at the end of our story. However, Naaman's attempt to pay for the healing is where grace is lost on him momentarily. Elisha's rebuke of Naaman is the reminder to us that we cannot pay for a gift we did not earn. God's grace given to us by Christ is not something we deserve or earn. We can, like Naaman, try to pay for it but we should be reminded that "this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God and not a result of works lest anyone should boast" (Eph. 2:8-9).

We encourage all classrooms to engage with the story from the options provided in class. Teachers, tell the story using any of the provided helps (Vos, Jesus Story Book Bible, Gospel Story Book Bible or printed Handout). If you would like, read the selected Scripture passages aloud in class, discuss or explain what the passages mean, and use the questions below to help guide the discussion. Also, use time in class to teach the Scripture Memory and the Catechism Questions.

Morning Overview

Lesson: *Split*: Elisha, Part 2

Lesson Objective: To communicate to children that God always keeps His promises despite circumstances and even our inability to trust Him. God wants us to trust Him and obey His commands.

Scripture: II Kings 5:1-19

Story: Vos Children's Bible, Chapter 85 (Pages 194-195); Jesus Story Book Bible, Pages 136-143; Gospel Story Bible, Pages 132-133; Beginners Bible, Pages 233-237.

Teaching Summary:

- God's promises do not change despite circumstances, people and even our inability to believe them. God keeps His promises even when we do not trust Him or follow His commands.
- Because of Solomon's disobedience, God tore the kingdom apart. There was the southern kingdom of Judah and the northern kingdom of Israel.
- Elisha is God's prophet to Israel. This means Elisha tells God's people exactly what God wants them to know.
- The Kingdom of Syria was to the north of Israel. The commander of the Syrian army, Naaman, had leprosy, a terrible skin disease.
- Naaman wanted to be cured of his leprosy. He found out from a little slave girl that Elisha could cure it.
- Naaman goes to the King of Israel, but the King of Israel cannot heal Naaman.
- The prophet Elisha is the only person who can help Naaman. Elisha tells Naaman what to do.
- Naaman, at first, does not want to obey Elisha's orders. Eventually he does obey Elisha.
- Naaman washes himself 7 times in the Jordan River and is finally clean of the leprosy.
- Naaman learned that only the God of Israel was the One, True God. Only God could have the power to make him clean.

9:30am Sunday Schedule

For the Sunday Schedule, please see "Sunday Schedule for Preschool" found in Handbook on the teacher's table.

Cherub Church

- Kindergarten/5's – 9:35-10:00 (Classroom's: 162, 163, 121, 123, 124)
- 3's/4's – 10:05-10:30 (Classroom's: 166, 165, 164)

Craft: Naaman Obeys God Door Hanger

Supplies: Door hanger, verse sticker, No. 7 sticker, other stickers, markers

Instructions: Place verse sticker under opening in hanger, place No. 7 sticker toward bottom of hanger, help children (if needed) write their name and the word "obeys" on hanger, write an "X" below No. 7 sticker, add additional stickers to decorate if desired.



Snack

11am Sunday Schedule

Craft: Naaman in the Jordan River

Supplies: Blue cardstock background, Naaman cutouts (before and after), popsicle stick, cellophane, cardstock wave, double sided tape, fish stickers, crayons/markers

Instructions: Color Naaman cutouts, glue together with popsicle stick in between, using double sided tape attach cellophane to blue background on edges leaving opening on top and bottom for Naaman to slide through, glue wave on edges at the top of cellophane, add fish stickers.



Story: *Split:* Elisha, Part 2

1. **PRAY** for your time and any requests the children may have.
2. **ASK** the Transition Question: Boys and girls, in our story today we learn about a great commander of a great army; very important and well respected by many, many people. But this commander has a very, very big problem. Let's find out what is his very, very big problem.
3. **TELL** the Story. Use the Vos Children's Bible, the Jesus Storybook Bible, the Beginner's Bible, or the story below to aid in telling the story.
4. **REVIEW** the questions to help children understand the story.

Questions for Review

Scripture Memory (2 Kings 6:17)

Catechism Questions (1-13)

Hymn of the Month: Fairest Lord Jesus

Free Play

Questions for Review

Questions for Younger Children:

- Who was God's prophet?
- Who was the great commander?
- How did Naaman hear about Elisha?
- What did King Joram do when he read Naaman's letter?
- What did Elisha tell Naaman to do?
- What happened when Naaman followed Elisha's orders?

Questions for Older Children:

- What does our story tell us about God?
- How does Naaman react to Elisha's command?
- How does Naaman respond to being cured?

Scripture Memory for January:

"O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see." So, the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

2 Kings 6:17

Catechism Questions:

- Question 1 – Who made you? *God*
- Question 2 – What else did God make? *God made all things.*
- Question 3 – Why did God make you and all things? *For his own glory.*
- Question 4 – How can you glorify God? *By loving him and doing what he commands.*
- Question 5 – Why are you to glorify God? *Because he made me and takes care of me.*
- Question 6 – Is there more than one true God? *No. There is only one true God.*
- Question 7 – In how many persons does this One God exist? *In three persons.*
- Question 8 – Who are they? *Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*
- Question 9 – What is God? *God is a Spirit and does not have a body like men.*
- Question 10 – Where is God? *God is everywhere.*
- Question 11 - Can you see God? *No; I cannot see God, but He can always see me.*
- Question 12 – Does God know all things? *Yes. Nothing can be hidden from God.*
- Question 13 – Can God do all things? *Yes. God can do all His holy will.*

Story

Teacher's Note: To aid in the teaching, there is a small, interactive prop on the table. Please use this at your discretion with Naaman's washing in the river.

Transition

Boys and girls, in our story today we learn about a great commander of a great army; very important and well respected by many, many people. But this commander has a very, very big problem. Let's find out about his very, very big problem...

A Successful Commander

To the north of Israel was the land of Syria. The land of Syria was ruled by a king named Ben-hadad. King Ben-hadad did not know God nor did King Ben-hadad worship God. Ben-hadad was king for a very long time, and often went to fight against Israel. But God had helped Israel defeat the King of Syria twice. Even though Israel did not follow God, God still protected Israel and loved the people of Israel. Israel and Syria were at peace however. They did not fight although a few times small groups of soldiers would sneak into Israel from Syria and steal things from the Israelites. One time a group of soldiers snuck over into Israel and stole lots of things, and they even stole a little girl from her family. This was a very sad thing! And the little girl became a servant to a great army commander in the land of Syria. This commander's name was Naaman.

Naaman was a great commander. He was very successful in battle, and was King Ben-hadad's favorite soldier. Naaman was very famous and well respected throughout the kingdom of Syria, but Naaman had one big problem: he had leprosy.

The Spots

Leprosy was a very bad thing in Naaman's day. Leprosy was an illness that covered your body with white spots and made your skin itchy, and there was no cure for it! People did not want to be around other people who had leprosy, in fact, if you had leprosy it was thought you were cursed! Naaman had leprosy and probably tried to do everything he could to get rid of the illness, but he never could.

One day the little girl said to Naaman's wife, "I wish that Naaman would meet the prophet who lives in Samaria. He would heal Naaman of his disease." Naaman's wife told Naaman what the little girl said. Naaman was desperate to be healed from his leprosy. He would do whatever was needed to be healed. So Naaman went to King Ben-hadad and told him what the little girl had said. King Ben-hadad said, "Go and find this prophet. I will send a letter to the king of Israel to let him know."

The Journey

So Naaman packed for the journey to find this prophet living in Samaria. Naaman thought that being cured from leprosy could get really expensive, and so the Bible tells us he packed 750 pounds of silver. He also packed about 150 pounds of gold. Naaman hoped that whoever this prophet was living in Samaria could cure him. Naaman also remembered the letter from the king. The letter read, "I am sending my commander Naaman to you, so you can cure him of his leprosy."

Naaman traveled to the king of Israel's palace in Samaria. Naaman met with King Joram and handed him the letter from King Ben-hadad. The King of Israel read the letter to himself, "I am sending my commander Naaman to you, so you can cure him of his leprosy." King Joram became very frightened and upset when he read the message. He tore his clothes in panic. He thought King Ben-hadad was trying to start a war with him. "I'm not God!" King Joram said, "I can't make something alive again! Why does your king send someone with leprosy for me to heal? You can see that King Ben-hadad is trying to start trouble with me!"

News traveled fast in the kingdom of Israel that the king was upset and angry. The news made its way to Elisha that the king had torn his clothes and he was so angry. So Elisha sent his servant to King Joram with a message. "Why have you become so upset that you tore your clothes? Let Naaman come to me. Then he will know there is a prophet in Israel!"

The King of Joram was happy to send Naaman to Elisha to heal. Naaman left very quickly to Elisha's house. Naaman rode in his beautiful chariot with his fine horses and many servants to Elisha's house. Naaman arrived at Elisha's house and stood outside the door waiting on the prophet. Elisha did not even come out to meet him. He sent his servant to say, "Go and wash in the Jordan River seven times. Then your skin will be healed, and you will be clean."

Washing in The Jordan River

Naaman was an important man; famous and well respected because he was a great commander that never lost a war. Naaman was rich and honored by everyone that met him. No one had ever dared to treat him in this way. Naaman was angry and left. As he was leaving, Naaman said, "I thought Elisha would surely come out and stand before me. I thought he would call on the name of the Lord his God. I thought he would wave his hand over me and heal the disease!" Naaman went on to complain about how dirty the Jordan River was, he said, "Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, are better than all the waters of Israel! Why can't I wash in them and become clean?" Naaman left Elisha's home very angry.

Naaman was very kind to his servants, and they loved Naaman very much. They wanted the leprosy to be gone too. After Naaman stormed off from Elisha's home in anger, the servants said to Naaman, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, wouldn't you have done it?" The servants continued to speak to Naaman, "Doesn't it make more sense just to do it? After all, he only told you, 'Wash, and you will be clean.'" Naaman was a proud man. He felt insulted by Elisha, but pride could not cure his leprosy. The unhappy commander realized that if he

truly wanted to be cured, he must follow Elisha's orders. So Naaman rode off to the Jordan River. He took off his clothes and waded into the water. He held his nose and ducked into the water. The first time he came up from under the water, his leprosy was still there. The second time under, there was no change. But Naaman continued until the seventh time under and when he came up, the Bible says Naaman's skin was like the skin of a baby boy. So soft and perfect; Naaman was clean!

Back to Elisha

Naaman knew that it was not the river that cured him, but it was Elisha's God. Naaman and all his servants went back to Elisha's home. Naaman stood before Elisha and said, "Look. I now know there is no God in all the earth except in Israel!" That day Naaman found God. Naaman wanted to thank Elisha for his help with a gift, but Elisha refused it. Elisha knew he had nothing to do with Naaman's cure, it was all God. Elisha said to the commander, "I serve the Lord. As surely as the Lord lives, I won't accept anything." Naaman urged Elisha to take the gift, but the prophet refused.

Then Naaman said, "If you won't take the gift, then please give me some dirt. Give me as much as two of my mules can carry. From now on I'll not offer any burnt offering or sacrifice to any other gods. I'll only offer sacrifices to the Lord." Naaman understood that only God deserved his worship, and that all the other idols were powerless compared to the God of Israel. Elisha blessed Naaman and sent him back to the kingdom of Syria.