

Objective: Family members choose to humbly obey God even when it doesn't seem to make sense.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: The events of 2 Kings took place after the kingdom was divided following the reigns of David and Solomon. This section took place around 835 BC and demonstrates that God desires to be the God of all people, not just the Israelites.

Bible Basics: Memorize the names and order of books 23 through 27 of the Old Testament (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel) this week and work with family members to do so as well.

Read the Word: 2 Kings 5:1-27

Disciple Your Kids

Discuss with family members how God can use all people for His glory and that we must trust and obey Him even when it doesn't seem to make sense.



Key Truth: God Can Use Anyone to Accomplish His Will (2 Kings 5:1-8)

Naaman, the commander of Syria's army, was a mighty warrior, but he also was a leper. A lowly Israeli servant girl he had captured served in his house (verses 1-2). Surprisingly, the girl wanted to see Naaman healed and suggested he see the prophet Elisha in Israel (verses 1-3). Naaman passed this along to his king who sent Naaman to Israel along with gifts and a letter to Israel's king asking for him to heal Naaman. Israel's king thought the king of Syria was looking for an excuse to attack Israel (verses 4-7). Elisha, however, asked the king to send Naaman to him so Naaman would know there was a prophet of the true God in Israel (verse 8). God did this through a lowly servant girl.



Key Truth: God's Methods Are Best, Even When They Seem Strange to Us (2 Kings 5:9-14)

Naaman went to Elisha's house expecting to meet with him and be healed. Elisha, however, simply sent a messenger to instruct Naaman to go wash in the Jordan River seven times (verses 9-10). This angered Naaman, who expected special attention and healing from the prophet. He went away enraged. His servants, however, urged him to follow Elisha's instructions since he had nothing to lose. All he had to do was obey. He did so and was healed (verses 11-14).



Key Truth: Believers Must Guard Against Greed (2 Kings 5:15-27)

Naaman's attitude changed. He understood that there was only one God, Israel's God, and he pressed Elisha to accept his gifts. Elisha, however, refused, wanting Naaman to see that the healing came from God, not from him (verses 15-16). Naaman, thinking he could only worship the God of Israel on Israel's soil, asked to take some back to Syria. He also asked forgiveness for having to bow as his master worshiped other gods. Elisha sent him away in peace (verses 17-19). Sadly, Elisha's servant Gehazi let greed guide him and ran to catch Naaman. He lied, claiming Elisha had sent him, and asked for some of the gifts to help two needy prophets. Naaman gave him gifts and Gehazi hid them at his home. God had revealed it to Elisha though, and Elisha confronted Gehazi. Gehazi's disobedience meant that he and his descendants would be lepers from then on (verses 20-27).

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- How does the account of Naaman's healing show us that God can use anyone to accomplish His purposes?
- **How do you see God working through Naaman's story?**
- **How was humility and obedience such an important part of Naaman's healing?**
- In what ways might God use seemingly insignificant people for His glory today?
- **Why should we trust and obey God even when it doesn't seem to make sense?**
- **Elisha's servant let greed control him. Why is greed dangerous for us today?**
- What command or instruction from God do you need to obey, even if it doesn't seem to make sense?
- How can you make yourself available for God to use this week?

Everyday Extras

Play a game of doctors and patients with two bowls and several strips of paper. Write out various complaints that people take to the doctor on half of the strips of paper (*I have a broken leg, I have a sore throat, I have a wart on my knee, etc.*), fold them, and put them in the first bowl. On the other strips, write out remedies a doctor might prescribe (*Take two aspirin, put an ice pack on it for 20 minutes, gargle with salt water, etc.*) and put them in the second bowl. Find some interesting medical advice when you draw one piece of paper from the first bowl and one from the second bowl. Most of the time, the advice will not match! That may be how Naaman felt about the instructions that Elisha gave him. He did not like the dirty Jordan River and did not think the instructions were appropriate for someone with his credentials as a Syrian general. When he finally obeyed what God told him through the prophet Elisha, he was cured from his leprosy!

Your young children will enjoy reenacting the story of Naaman at bath time! Assign parts and don't be surprised if the fun continues all week long.

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned King Josiah promised God he would worship and serve only Him and help his people do the same. He told the people to turn away from following the false gods and return to worshiping the one, true God. King Josiah destroyed all the false idols and had the priests lead the people in celebrating Passover. They knew **God's Word Is Special** and so do we.