

LESSON 66

Naaman Is Cured

2 KINGS 5:1-16



— BIBLE TRUTH —

GOD WELCOMES REPENTANT SINNERS BUT CASTS OUT THE HYPOCRITES

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

SUPPLIES: Washable marker; wet, soapy rag or paper towel

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 66)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is Jesus?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is Jesus?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: Snack food/water

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN

Coloring Page 66

SUPPLIES: markers/crayons

Convincing Naaman

God’s Gifts Are Free

SUPPLIES: three pennies for each child; a bag of pretzels

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60–75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION

5 MIN

In today's lesson the children will learn that God is able to heal as the prophet Elisha heals Naaman of leprosy.

For this opening activity you will need a washable marker and a wet, soapy rag or paper towel.

Prior to class draw ¼-in. spots on your arms with the washable marker. Draw enough spots to make the children notice when they enter your classroom. If any of them ask about the spots, tell them you have marker disease.

Once all the children arrive tell them that you put the spots on your arm yourself and that you are really not sick. Explain that you wanted to show them what it could be like for a person who had leprosy. Leprosy is a disease that can cause sores anywhere on your body. Back in Bible times, there was no cure and people with the disease were often forced to leave their homes and towns so that the rest of the people would not catch their disease. People with leprosy were forced to live in leper colonies.

Use the wet, soapy rag to wash off the spots as you share:

In our Bible lesson today we are going to hear a story about a man named Naaman who was healed by God. God told him to wash in the river, and the leprosy washed away.

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY

10 MIN

Read story 66, "Naaman is Cured," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION

5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

■ What is this story about?

(Naaman traveled to Israel to see if the king could heal him. Elisha the prophet heard of Naaman's request and met him when he arrived. Elisha told Naaman to wash in the Jordan River to be healed. Naaman washed and was healed.)

■ What do we learn about God from this story?

(God uses men to speak his word and perform mighty deeds. God is all-powerful.)

■ What did Naaman say after he was healed?

("Behold, I know that there is no God in all the earth but in Israel" [2 Kings 5:15].)

SNACK QUESTIONS

10 MIN

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking:

■ What do we do if we are sick?

(We take medicine, and we pray to get better.)

■ Why don't we wash in the river to be made well?

(God uses many different ways to test our faith. The Bible tells us we are to pray when we want to be healed.)

■ What important role did a young girl play?

(She believed in God and was the one who encouraged Naaman to go to Israel to be healed! God loves to use young people.)

■ If we hear that someone is sick, what should we tell them?

(We should tell them that God heals, and then we should pray for them.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

5-10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

Where Is Jesus?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Passage: 1 Peter 2:24

Just as God healed Naaman, so we look to God for our healing. Peter tells us that we can be healed because of the finished work of Christ. Healing is possible for us because of what Jesus did on the cross. We look to God for our healing from the spiritual sickness of sin as well as physical sickness.

Elisha's cleansing of Naaman's leprosy points forward to Jesus and the healing of the lepers in his ministry. In Luke 4:27 Jesus says: "There were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian."

Naaman foreshadowed the plan of God to reach the Gentiles with the grace of the gospel.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page 66—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- Why is Naaman happy in the picture?
(All his leprosy was washed away.)
- Why was Naaman angry at first about washing in the river?
(He thought he was too important to bathe in the muddy Jordan River.)

- Why did Elisha ask Naaman to wash seven times?
(Seven was understood to be the number of completeness. Elisha wanted Naaman to understand that it was God who healed him, not the river and not Elisha.)

- Can you think of another time in the Bible when someone was healed in an unusual way?
(Jesus spit in the dirt and put the mud on a blind man's eyes and the man was healed.)

Convincing Naaman

Act out the portion of the story where Naaman is convinced by his servants to listen and obey the words of the prophet. Have the class play the role of the servants. Have one of the teachers act as Naaman.

Naaman should voice his opposition to dipping in the dirty water using the arguments from 2 Kings 5:11–12. Have the class encourage him by calling out reasons why he should do what the prophet tells him.

God's Gifts Are Free

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ three pennies for each child
- ✓ a bag of pretzels

Pass out three pennies to each of the children. Tell them you are going to come around the class with a bag of pretzels, and you will allow them to buy the pretzels with the pennies. You'll give out the number they choose and come around a second time to collect the money.

Go around and ask each child how many pretzels they want—one, two, or three. Give them the number they choose.

After the last person, announce to the class that when God gives gifts, he does not want our money but our gratitude ... our thanks. Tell them that the pretzels are free today, and they can keep the three pennies as well.

Connect this to Naaman's attempt to pay for the miracle.

PRAY

5 MIN

Take time at the end of class to thank God for all you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as another way for the children to remember what today's lesson was about.

LESSON 66 - NAAMAN IS CURED

