

LESSON 66

Naaman Is Cured

2 KINGS 5



— BIBLE TRUTH —

GOD WELCOMES REPENTANT SINNERS BUT CASTS OUT THE HYPOCRITES

LESSON SNAPSHOT

- 1. OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN**
Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.
- 2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN**
Read 2 Kings 5 from the Scriptures or read story 66, “Naaman Is Cured,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.
- 3. OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN**
Peekaboo
- 4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN**
- 5. OBJECT LESSON 2 15 MIN**
You Can’t Buy God’s Favor
SUPPLIES:
✓ costume jewelry and an eccentric outfit for a woman helper to play a very rich person
- 6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN**
- 7. ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN**
Coloring Activity
SUPPLIES:
✓ coloring page 66—one copy for each child
- 8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN**
- 9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN**
You Can’t Hide Your Sin from God
SUPPLIES:
✓ a large, bright-colored balloon with the word SIN written on it several times with permanent marker

TOTAL 80 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

The prophets of God are forgotten—It seems that a little Israelite girl knows more about God and demonstrates greater faith than the king of Israel himself. The girl, captured in a raid, speaks with great faith about Elisha and his gift of healing. But when the king of Israel receives a letter from the king of Syria requesting that his commander Naaman be healed, he reacts out of fear not faith. This is a period in Israel's history when the kings did not follow God. But Elisha, hearing of the request to heal the Syrian commander, invites Naaman to visit him.

God heals Naaman's leprosy—When Naaman arrives, Elisha does not even come out of his house. Elisha's message to Naaman is that it is the God of Israel who heals not Elisha. Elisha sends word telling Naaman to wash in the Jordan River, a river within the boundaries of Israel. When Naaman is finally convinced and obeys he is cleansed and returns to offer gifts to Elisha. By rejecting the gifts Elisha underscores God and his role in the healing and takes the focus off himself.

Naaman asks permission to take soil from Israel. This shows that he understands that it is the God of all Israel who has healed him. God's care for Naaman, an enemy of Israel, demonstrates God's compassion for people outside the borders of Israel.

Gehazi falls away—Notice how much deception Gehazi, Elisha's servant, has to practice in trying to get away with his sin. He lies to Naaman in claiming that Elisha has sent him. He sends Naaman's servants back before they reach Elisha's home to keep them from exposing his scheme. When he returns, he lies to Elisha. He should have known he could not hide his sin from God.

The account of Gehazi's sins concludes the story of Elisha and Naaman. God will always welcome repentant sinners as he welcomed Naaman. But liars and hypocrites like Gehazi will suffer for their sin.

WHERE IS JESUS? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Read 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.

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW

5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY

10 MIN

Read 2 Kings 5 from the Scriptures or read story 66, "Naaman Is Cured," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1

10 MIN

Peekaboo

This short exercise demonstrates the absurdity of thinking that we can hide our sin from God.

Tell the class that there is an amazing thing about two-year-olds: if they cover their eyes with their hands so they can't see you, they think they themselves disappear. Most of them go

through this stage. You say to them, “I can see you,” and they cover their eyes. If you are kind to them, you just play along saying, “Where did you go?” Then when they peek out from behind their hands, you finish off the exercise by saying, “There you are!” Two-year-old children love it.

Then ask the class the following questions:

- What would you think of a grown person who still believed that if they covered their eyes, they would disappear?
(We would think they were silly because that is a childish thought and everyone can see they are still there.)
- What would you say to a person who thought they got away with a crime just because nobody saw them do it?
(God sees everything, so no one ever gets away with a crime.)
- What lesson did Gehazi learn the hard way?
(Gehazi learned that you can't hide something from God just by hiding it from others.)

TEACHING/DISCUSSION

10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2 15 MIN

You Can't Buy God's Favor

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ costume jewelry and an eccentric outfit for a woman helper to play a very rich person

This ad-lib skit is meant to demonstrate that God wants our hearts and that we can't buy God's favor.

Just after reading today's Bible story to the class, an eccentric rich lady comes into the room interrupting the lesson.

Suggested dialogue progression:

Rich Lady: Excuse me, but is this a church?

Teacher: Yes. Can I help you?

Rich Lady: I hope so. I need to buy a healing, and I would love to know how much heaven costs.

Teacher: You want to buy heaven?

Rich Lady: No, that would be too expensive, I'm sure. I just want to buy my way into heaven.

Teacher: Well, you can't buy a healing unless you need an operation, but then you should be talking to a doctor about that.

Rich Lady: No, the doctors can't cure my arthritis. They just tell me it's old age. What I need is a healing; better yet, just give me a ticket to heaven.

Teacher: I'm sorry; you can't buy a ticket to heaven.

Rich Lady: Don't be shy, name your price. Forget negotiating, I own half the country.

Teacher: I'm sorry, but you can't buy a ticket to heaven at any price. God is after our hearts not our money. God already owns all the riches of the whole world. (Teacher shares the gospel with the lady.)

Rich Lady: You mean to tell me my money is worthless?

Teacher: No, you could give it to the poor.

Rich Lady: Well, I never heard of such a ... (She stalks out.)

Then ask the class the following questions:

■ **What did the lady trust in?**

(She was trusting in her money not the Lord.)

■ **What role did money play in our Bible story for each of the three main characters: Naaman, Elisha, and Gehazi?**

(Naaman thought he could purchase a healing or at least influence Elisha with it. Elisha would not accept money because he knew that God and his work cannot be bought. Gehazi loved money more than God, and it caused him to stumble into deceit.)

■ **How can money be a snare for us?**

(We can be snared just as easily as Gehazi: it is easy to love money or the things money can buy more than we love God and following his Word.)

- How should Gehazi's judgment help us in fighting the temptation to love money more than God?
(Gehazi's judgment should put the fear of God into our lives, knowing how seriously God takes these issues.)
- What should we do if we are convicted of the sins Gehazi committed?
(We should repent to God and to those we have sinned against, remember the gospel, and ask God to forgive us.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

5 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.

ACTIVITY TIME 10 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 and 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.)

CLOSING PRAYER

5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

You Can't Hide Your Sin from God

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a large, bright-colored balloon with the word SIN written on it several times with permanent marker

Hide the balloon in your pocket or in a place where you can grab it discreetly.

After you tell the story of Naaman's healing and how Gehazi greedily lied to get gifts from him, put the balloon in your hand, grasping the opening between your thumb and first finger. Get ready to blow it up. Tell the children that Gehazi thought he could sin and no one would find out about it.

Look down at your hand as you speak, and ask the children if they notice anything different. The goal is to get one of the children to say something about your hand. When they comment on you having something in your hand, deny it. Then blow a bit of air in the balloon to make it more difficult to conceal. The class should comment that they can see you have something in your hand. Again deny it and blow a bit more air into the balloon, which will now become obvious. Again deny the existence of the balloon and this time blow it up halfway.

The children should notice the word "SIN" on the balloon. Hopefully, one of them will shout out that it says "sin" on it.

Use this object lesson as a way to remind the children that they cannot hide their sin from God and that each time they lie about their sin it becomes harder and harder to hide it. Read 2 Kings 5:15–27, and see if the children can pick out each of Gehazi's lies.

End by sharing that we are all liars and that we all need Jesus to save us from our sin.

LESSON 66 - NAAMAN IS CURED

