

## NAAMAN IS CURED

*God welcomes repentant sinners but casts out hypocrites.*



THE STORY: 2 KINGS 5:1-8

MONDAY

### Naaman, the Gentile, was a leper

Naaman, the Gentile, was a leper – A little Israelite girl captured in a raid told Naaman’s wife that there was a prophet in Israel who could heal Naaman’s leprosy. Naaman, a commander in the Syrian army, talked to the king about this. The King of Syria sent him out with gifts of silver, gold and clothing along with a letter to the king of Israel requesting help for Naaman. Naaman left for Israel. His leprosy must not have been a mild case because he took ten changes of clothing for the journey. When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes. He thought that the king of Syria was using the whole matter to draw Israel into a war. Elisha heard that the king was upset, so he sent a message to remind the king that there was a prophet of the Lord in Israel who could seek God on behalf of the nation and speak accordingly.

#### TALK ABOUT IT:

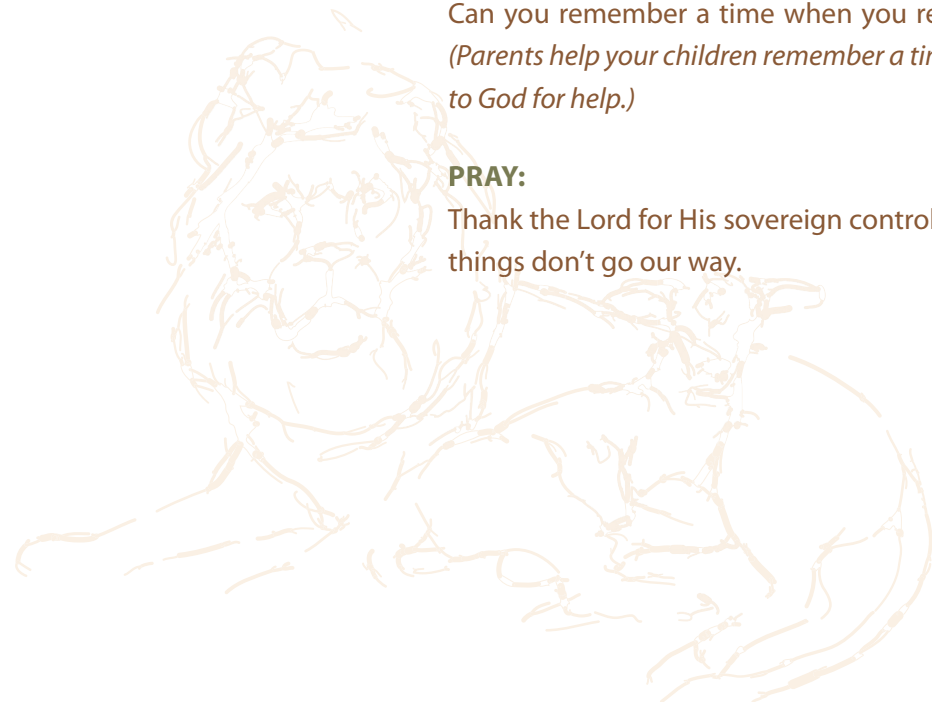
Who allowed the little girl to be captured so that Naaman could come to know about the God of Israel? *(God used the capture of the little girl to work out His plan. God controls all things.)*

What should the king of Israel have done when He received the letter from Naaman? *(The king should have called Elisha the prophet.)*

Can you remember a time when you responded in fear instead of going to God? *(Parents help your children remember a time when they were afraid and were not going to God for help.)*

#### PRAY:

Thank the Lord for His sovereign control over all things that helps us not fear when things don’t go our way.





## God healed Naaman's leprosy

God healed Naaman's leprosy – God's care for Naaman, an enemy of Israel, demonstrated God's compassion for people outside the borders of Israel. To emphasize that it is the Lord (not the prophet) who heals, Elisha didn't even step foot out of his house. Instead, he sent his servant with a message to Naaman to wash seven times in the Jordan. Naaman became angry, but his servants encouraged him to heed the word of the prophet. When Naaman finally obeyed, he was healed. He returned to give Elisha great gifts. In a demonstration of humility and knowing that it was the Lord who healed, Elisha refused the gifts. Naaman requested permission to take soil from Israel. It would be a sign that, though he may be forced to enter the pagan temple with his master, he would only worship the God of Israel. Elisha granted his request, and Naaman returned home.

### TALK ABOUT IT:

What did God promise Abraham? (*God promised Abraham that all the nations of the earth would be blessed through him.*)

How does the healing of Naaman remind us of God's promise to Abraham? (*Naaman's healing reminds us that God's love extends to all the peoples of the earth.*)

### PRAY:

Thank God for His great salvation which will reach people from all nations of the earth.





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.

## Where is Jesus?

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. (1 Peter 2:24)

Healing from the deadly disease of sin is possible for us because of what Jesus did on the cross. Because of the cross, we have the promise of healing from the spiritual sickness of sin and the promise of new bodies in the age to come. We can also look to God who still mercifully heals physical sickness in the present age.

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 refers back to Naaman telling us that the lepers of Israel were not cleansed, but Naaman the Syrian was. Naaman foreshadowed the plan of God to reach Gentiles with the grace of the Gospel.

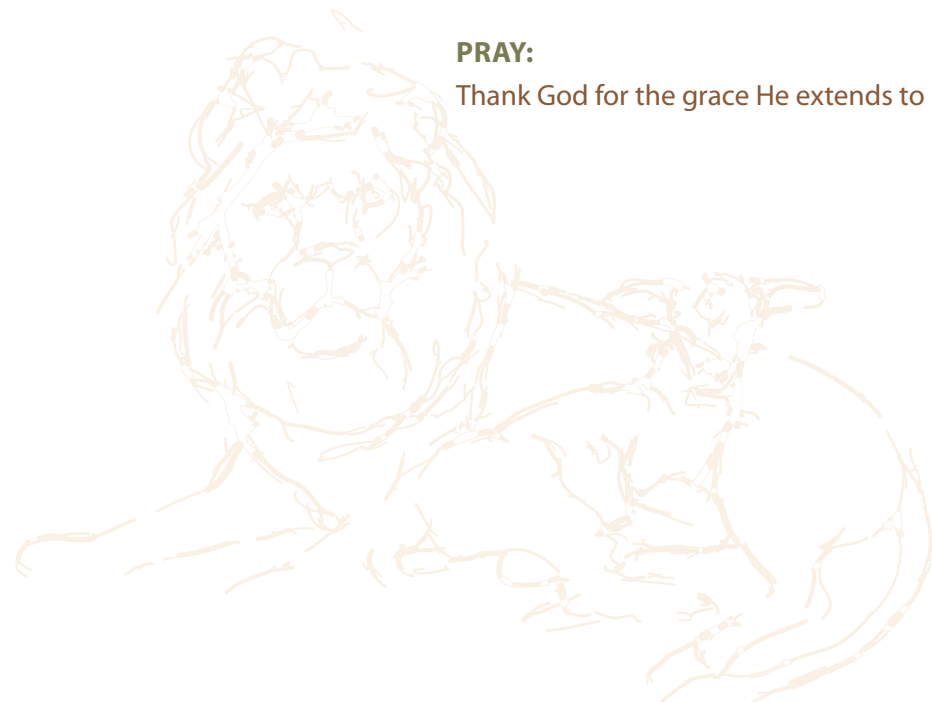
### TALK ABOUT IT:

How does the healing of Naaman demonstrate the mercy and grace of God? (*None of us deserve to be healed based on our works, but God healed Naaman. The most amazing part of the story though is how God drew a Syrian to Himself.*)

How is the prophet Elisha like Jesus in this story. (*The prophets all point forward toward Christ. One day a greater prophet would come who would heal the sick and cleanse the lepers. And we still await the day when Jesus will put an end to all our sickness, sadness, and pain. See Revelation 21:4.*)

### PRAY:

Thank God for the grace He extends to us through Jesus.





## When Gehazi saw Elisha refuse the rich gifts, he determined to get some for himself.

When Gehazi, Elisha's servant, saw Elisha refuse the rich gifts, he determined to get some for himself. Motivated by his greed, Gehazi made up a story claiming Elisha sent him to request some silver and garments for two traveling prophets. Naaman was glad to fill the modest request. After hiding the gifts, Gehazi returned to Elisha, who questioned him. Instead of telling the truth, Gehazi lied. He should have known he could not hide his sin from God. Though Gehazi denied going anywhere, Elisha knew what happened and pronounced judgment on Gehazi. Gehazi received Naaman's leprosy.

In addition to mentioning the silver and garments, Elisha also spoke of vineyards, orchards, sheep, oxen, and servants (2 Kings 5:26). It seems Gehazi had been profiting deceitfully from others as well. Gehazi did not repent or ask forgiveness, but simply left white with leprosy.

### TALK ABOUT IT:

What is the difference between Gehazi and Naaman? (*Gehazi as a Jew was numbered among the people of God, but in his heart he did not follow the Lord. Naaman, who was a foreigner and not a part of Israel, had faith in his heart toward God.*)

What is more important to God - looking good on the outside or looking good on the inside? (*God looks to the heart.*)

How are you tempted to hide your sin to look good on the outside? (*Parents, help your children see that we all have this tendency to one degree or another.*)

### PRAY:

God would help you follow Jesus in your heart and obey God's commands.





## On the road to Emmaus.

The Psalmist declares that God provides redemption for His people. In Romans 3:24, we are told that God's redemption comes through Jesus Christ. In verse 9 the psalmist talks about redemption and a covenant which lasts forever. Whenever we read of God's redemption in the Old Testament it is always pointing forward to Jesus.

### TALK ABOUT IT:

What does redemption mean? (*Redemption is "buying back" something. God "buys us back," or redeems us, from our enemies and our slavery to sin.*)

Who redeemed us from sin? (*Jesus is the only way that man can be redeemed. There is no alternate plan of salvation for man.*)

According to the psalmist, what should our response to the works of God (His plan of redemption) be? (*The psalmist tells us that we should praise the Lord and give thanks with our whole heart for His works.*)

### PRAY:

Give thanks to God for sending Jesus to die on the cross for our sin, purchasing our redemption by His blood.

