

Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

3rd - 5th Grade

## Sunday Morning

Study 13

*Naaman's Leprosy Healed*

# Naaman's Leprosy Healed

The Objective is the key concept for this week's lesson. It should be the main focus of the study.

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verses support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

**Objective** To teach the students through the story of Naaman's leprosy that we don't get saved by bringing anything to God; we must receive salvation by faith alone.

## Key Verses

2 Kings 5—Main Teaching Passage (focus on the story of Naaman as we already covered Gehazi's greed in Proverbs)

Luke 4:27

1 Peter 5:5

## Memory Verse - Ephesians 2:8-9

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."

## Hook

Review last week's memory verse, John 11:25.

Tell the kids to imagine that they have been diagnosed with a terrible disease that would soon cause them to die. Wouldn't that be really sad and scary?

Now imagine that someone told you there was hope! All the way down in Florida was someone who could heal that disease! What would you do? You and your family would do everything they could to get down to Florida!

Today we are going to learn about Naaman, who left his home to seek out the prophet Elisha to be healed.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

# BOOK

Naaman was a commander in the army of the king of Syria. He was a great man and a mighty warrior through whom the LORD had given victory to Syria. But he also had a deadly disease called leprosy. A servant girl, who had been taken from Israel, told Naaman's wife he should go to her homeland to find the prophet of God and be healed. The king of Syria gave Naaman permission to go find this prophet, and Naaman took much gold, silver, and clothing as gifts for the prophet if he could heal him.

The king of Israel (Joram) was so distressed when Naaman came to be healed that he tore his clothes because he didn't think Naaman could be healed, but Elisha told the king to send Naaman to him, "And he shall know there is a prophet in Israel." So Naaman went to Elisha's house. He was met at the front door, not by Elisha, but by Elisha's servant, who told him to go wash in the Jordan river seven times, and he would be healed.

Naaman was furious. Elisha didn't even come out and talk to him, and he was told to go wash in a dirty river. How was that going to help anything? But Naaman's servants encouraged him to obey, and he went to the Jordan. After dipping into the Jordan seven times, he was healed! His body was restored. His life had been saved. He went back to Elisha's house and tried to reward him with great gifts, but Elisha would not accept them. Naaman said that from that point forward, he would worship the God of Israel, and Elisha told him to go in peace.

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

# LOOK

This is an incredible story of God's sovereignty and grace. Remember, Israel had rejected God to worship idols, so God was giving Syria (Israel's enemy) victory over them because of their disobedience. During a Syrian raid, God had allowed a young girl to be taken away from her home and family, but similar to Joseph, what others had meant for evil, God meant for good (Genesis 50:20). She went on to serve Naaman's wife, where she learned that Naaman had a deadly disease called leprosy.

Naaman was the second most powerful person in Syria. He was a mighty warrior and commander. He knew his leprosy would take everything from him: his position before the king, his wealth, his family, and eventually his life. When he heard there was a chance for him to be cured, he left immediately to find the prophet in Israel the girl spoke of. He carried with him 750 pounds of silver, 150 pounds of gold, and very expensive clothing as a gift for the prophet to heal him.

But like many important and wealthy people who don't know God, Naaman was a very proud man. Pride makes us think we can do things in our own strength, without God's help, but remember, pride comes before destruction and God resists the proud, but He gives grace to the humble.

# LOOK (Continued)

Naaman needed to humble himself and obey God's Word if he wanted to be healed.

Naaman's pride almost cost him his life! He was furious that Elisha didn't speak with him himself. Didn't Elisha know how important he was? And why should he dip in a dirty river to be healed? Weren't there better rivers back home in Damascus? Again, God spoke through Naaman's servants to speak some sense into him, and he finally agreed. No doubt he felt silly as he walked into the Jordan while everyone stood watching their commander from the riverbank. He dipped himself once, twice, three times... Again and again he dipped into the river, until the seventh time he emerged completely healed!

This reminds us that God loves all people. The Jews were and are His chosen people, but His promise to Abraham was that through his descendants the whole world would be blessed. Leprosy is a picture of sin in the Bible. It separates us from God and everything that is good. Eventually it kills us. We need to be forgiven, but we can't earn forgiveness. We can't pay for salvation. It's a gift that has to be received in faith. We have to humble ourselves and acknowledge that we are powerless to help ourselves. We need Jesus!

Naaman wasn't just healed physically, but spiritually. I have no doubt we will see him and that servant girl in heaven one day. Never underestimate what God can do through the words of a child.

# TOOK

As a class, memorize Ephesians 2:8-9

**Pray:** Ask God for opportunities to tell people about the hope that is in Jesus. Thank Him for sending His Son to make a way for our sins to be washed away.

**Parent Question:** How did Naaman humble himself, and what happened when he did?

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

# FURTHER STUDY

## Commentary on 2 Kings 5 by David Guzik

### NAAMAN THE LEPER

A. Naaman comes to Elisha.

1. ([2Ki 5:1](#)) Naaman's problem.

**Now Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great and honorable man in the eyes of his master, because by him the Lord had given victory to Syria. He was also a mighty man of valor, but a leper.**

a. **Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great and honorable man:** Naaman was the chief military commander of a persistent enemy to both Israel and Judah. As recently as the days of Ahab and Jehoshaphat, Syria had fought and won against Israel ([1 Kings 22:35-36](#)). His position and success made him a **great and honorable man**, and personally he was a **mighty man of valor**.

i. This same title was applied to Gideon ([Judges 6:12](#)), Jephthah ([Judges 11:1](#)), David ([1 Samuel 16:18](#)), Jeroboam ([1 Kings 11:28](#)), and Eliada ([2 Chronicles 17:17](#)). It seems that this is the only *specific* Gentile mentioned as a **mighty man of valor**.

ii. According to Jewish legends, "The Rabbins tell us that it was he [Naaman] who shot the arrow wherewith Ahab was slain." (Trapp)

b. **But a leper:** Naaman had a lot going for him, but what he had against him was devastating. He was a **leper**, which meant that he had a horrible, incurable disease that would slowly result in his death. No matter how good and successful everything else was in Naaman's life, he was a **leper**.

i. "Here was a heavy tax upon his grandeur; he was afflicted with a disorder the most loathsome and the most humiliating that could possibly disgrace a human being." (Clarke)

ii. Ancient leprosy began as small, red spots on the skin. Before too long the spots get bigger, and start to turn white, with sort of a shiny, or scaly appearance. Pretty soon the spots spread over the whole body and hair begins to fall out – first from the head, then even from the eyebrows. As things get worse, finger nails and toenails become loose; they start to rot and eventually fall off. Then the joints of fingers and toes begin to rot and fall off piece by piece. Gums begin to shrink and they can't hold the teeth anymore, so each of them is lost. Leprosy keeps eating away at your face until literally the nose, the palate, and even the eyes rot – and the victim wastes away until death.

2. ([2Ki 5:2-3](#)) The testimony from the servant girl.

**And the Syrians had gone out on raids, and had brought back captive a young girl from the land of Israel. She waited on Naaman's wife. Then she said to her mistress, "If only my master were with the**

**prophet who is in Samaria! For he would heal him of his leprosy.”**

a. **Had brought back captive a young girl from the land of Israel:** This girl was an unwilling missionary, taken **captive** from Israel and now in Syria. Yet God allowed the tragedy of her captivity to accomplish a greater good.

i. The **young girl** illustrates the mysterious ways God works. She was probably raised in a godly home, yet taken from her family at a young age. It was an irreplaceable loss for her parents, and one they no doubt grieved over every day. Yet, she was greatly used in a simple way.

b. **If only my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria!** This **young girl** was an outstanding example of a faithful witness in her current circumstance. She *cared* enough to speak up, and she had *faith* enough to believe that Elisha **would heal him of his leprosy**.

i. “And see the benefits of a religious education! Had not this little maid been brought up in the knowledge of the true God, she had not been the instrument of so great a salvation.” (Clarke)

3. (2Ki 5:4-7) Naaman comes to the king of Israel looking for healing.

**And Naaman went in and told his master, saying, “Thus and thus said the girl who is from the land of Israel.” Then the king of Syria said, “Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel.” So he departed and took with him ten talents of silver, six thousand *shekels* of gold, and ten changes of clothing. Then he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which said, Now be advised, when this letter comes to you, that I have sent Naaman my servant to you, that you may heal him of his leprosy. And it happened, when the king of Israel read the letter, that he tore his clothes and said, “Am I God, to kill and make alive, that this man sends a man to me to heal him of his leprosy? Therefore please consider, and see how he seeks a quarrel with me.”**

a. **Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel:** Considering the record of wars between Israel and Syria described in the previous chapters, it seems strange that the king of Syria would send a letter of recommendation with his General Naaman. It seems that 2 Kings is not necessarily arranged chronologically, so this probably occurred during a time of lowered tension between Israel and Syria.

i. **And took with him ten talents of silver:** Dilday estimated that by the values of his own day, Naaman took more than \$1.2 million with him to Israel. All this together shows how *desperate* Naaman’s condition was, and how badly the King of Syria wanted to help him.

b. **I have sent Naaman my servant to you, that you may heal him of his leprosy:** When the king of Israel (Jehoram) read the letter, he was understandably upset. First, it was obviously out of his power to heal Naaman’s leprosy. Second, he had no relationship with the prophet of the God who *did* have the power to heal. He thought the king of Syria sought a **quarrel**.

i. The king of Syria assumed that the king of Israel was on a much better relationship with Elisha than he really was. It is easy for others to assume that we have a better relationship with God than we really do.

4. (2Ki 5:8-9) Naaman comes to Elisha’s house.

**So it was, when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying, “Why have you torn your clothes? Please let him come to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel.” Then Naaman went with his horses and chariot, and he stood at the door of Elisha’s house.**

a. **Why have you torn your clothes?** Elisha gave a gentle rebuke to the king of Israel. “This is a crisis to you,

because you have no relationship with the God who can heal lepers. But it is a needless crisis, because you *could* have relationship with this God.”

b. **Please let him come to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel:** Naaman would never know there was a prophet in Israel by hanging around the royal palace. The true **prophet** in Israel wasn't welcome at the palace.

B. Naaman is healed.

1. ([2Ki 5:10-12](#)) Naaman's anger at Elisha's instructions.

**And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, “Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean.” But Naaman became furious, and went away and said, “Indeed, I said to myself, ‘He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy.’ “Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?” So he turned and went away in a rage.**

a. **Elisha sent a messenger to him:** Naaman took the trouble to come to the home of Elisha, but Elisha refused to give him a personal audience. He simply **sent a messenger**. This was humbling to Naaman, who was accustomed to being honored.

b. **Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean:** These were simple, uncomplicated instructions. Yet as Naaman's reaction demonstrates, these were humbling instructions.

c. **He will surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy:** Naaman had it all figured out. In his great need, he anticipated a way God would work, and he was offended when God didn't work the way he expected.

d. **He turned and went away in a rage:** Because his expectation of how God *should* work was crushed, Naaman wanted nothing to do with Elisha. If the answer was in washing in a river, Naaman knew there were better rivers in his own land.

2. ([2Ki 5:13](#)) The good advice of Naaman's servants.

**And his servants came near and spoke to him, and said, “My father, if the prophet had told you to do something great, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you, ‘Wash, and be clean?’”**

a. **His servants came near and spoke to him:** Thank God for faithful subordinates who will speak to their superiors in such a way. Naaman was obviously angry, yet they were bold enough to give him the good advice he needed to hear.

b. **If the prophet had told you to do something great, would you not have done it?** The servants of Naaman used a brilliantly logical approach. If Elisha had asked Naaman to sacrifice 100 or 1,000 animals to the God of Israel, Naaman would have done it immediately. Yet because his request was easy to do and humbling, Naaman first refused.

3. ([2Ki 5:14](#)) Naaman is healed.

**So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.**

a. **According to the saying of the man of God:** Naaman did exactly what Elisha told him to do. Therefore we can say that each dunk in the Jordan was a step of faith, trusting in the word of God through His prophet.

i. Wiseman on the ancient Hebrew word translated **dipped**: “Naaman ‘plunged’ in the River Jordan. This signified total obedience to the divine word.”

ii. Spurgeon saw Naaman attacked by two enemies: *Proud Self*, who internally demanded that Elisha come out and see him, and *Evil Questioning*, who questioned why he should wash in the Jordan when he had better rivers back in his homeland. Naaman overcame these two enemies and did what God told him to do.

b. **And his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean:** Naaman’s response of faith was generously rewarded. God answered his faith with complete and miraculous healing.

i. “The simple method of this miracle, performed without the prophet there, did give God the credit. It was obvious that the healing came from Yahweh rather than from the sort of magical incantation that Naaman had anticipated.” (Dilday)

4. ([2Ki 5:15-16](#)) Naaman offers to reward Elisha but the prophet refuses.

**And he returned to the man of God, he and all his aides, and came and stood before him; and he said, “Indeed, now I know that *there is no God in all the earth, except in Israel; now therefore, please take a gift from your servant.” But he said, “As the Lord lives, before whom I stand, I will receive nothing.” And he urged him to take it, but he refused.***

a. **And he returned to the man of God:** This was a fine display of gratitude. Naaman was like the one leper out of the ten Jesus healed who came back to thank Jesus ([Luke 17:12-19](#)). He was also a foreigner, like the one thankful leper of [Luke 17](#).

i. Before, Naaman expected the prophet to come to him. Now he **returned to the man of God and stood before him.**

ii. “It is often the case that those who have least to value themselves on are proud and haughty; whereas the most excellent of the earth are the most humble, knowing that they have nothing but what they have received. Naaman, the *leper*, was more proud and dictatorial than he was when *cleansed* of his leprosy.” (Clarke)

b. **Now I know that there is no God in all the earth, except in Israel:** It wasn’t just the healing that persuaded Naaman of this. It was the healing connected with the word of the prophet. Together, this was convincing evidence to Naaman that the God Elisha represented was the true **God in all the earth.**

c. **Please take a gift from your servant:** We can say that Naaman only meant well by this gesture. He felt it was appropriate to support the ministry of this man of God whom the Lord had used so greatly to bring healing. However, Elisha steadfastly insisted that he would receive nothing from Naaman.

5. ([2Ki 5:17-19](#)) Naaman’s new faith.

**So Naaman said, “Then, if not, please let your servant be given two mule-loads of earth; for your servant will no longer offer either burnt offering or sacrifice to other gods, but to the Lord. Yet in this thing may the Lord pardon your servant: when my master goes into the temple of Rimmon to worship there, and he leans on my hand, and I bow down in the temple of Rimmon; when I bow down in the temple of Rimmon, may the Lord please pardon your servant in this thing.” Then he said to him, “Go in peace.” So he departed from him a short distance.**

a. **Let your servant be given two mule-loads of earth:** Like many new believers, Naaman was superstitious



in his faith. He held the common opinion of the ancient world, that particular deities had power over particular places. He thought that if he took a piece of Israel back with him to Syria, he could better worship the God of Israel.

i. “The transporting of holy soil was a widespread custom. Naaman’s faith was yet untaught; and with his personal need to follow publicly the state cults, Elisha may have felt that available Israelite soil may have afforded Naaman with some tangible reminder of his cleansing and new relationship to God.” (Patterson and Austel)

b. **When I bow down in the temple of Rimmon, may the Lord please pardon your servant in this thing:** As an official in the government of Syria, Naaman was expected to participate in the worship of the Syrian gods. He asked Elisha for allowance to direct his heart to Yahweh even when he was in the temple of **Rimmon**.

i. “The Hebrew ‘lean on the hand’ does not imply physical support but that he was the king’s ‘right hand man’ (cf. [2 Kings 7:2, 17](#)).” (Wiseman)

c. **Go in peace:** By generally approving but not saying specifically “yes” or “no,” it seems that Elisha left the matter up to Naaman and God. Perhaps he trusted that the Lord would personally convict Naaman of this and give him the integrity and strength to avoid idolatry.

i. Some commentators (Clarke and Trapp among them) believe that Naaman asked forgiveness for his *previous* idolatry in the **temple of Rimmon**, instead of asking permission for future occasions. Apparently, the Hebrew will allow for this translation, though it is not the most natural way to understand the text.

ii. Nevertheless, we can certainly agree with Trapp’s application: “Let none by Naaman’s example plead an upright soul in a prostrate body.”

C. The greed of Gehazi.

1. ([2Ki 5:20-24](#)) Gehazi follows after Naaman.

**But Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said, “Look, my master has spared Naaman this Syrian, while not receiving from his hands what he brought; but as the Lord lives, I will run after him and take something from him.” So Gehazi pursued Naaman. When Naaman saw *him* running after him, he got down from the chariot to meet him, and said, “Is all well?” And he said, “All is well. My master has sent me, saying, ‘Indeed, just now two young men of the sons of the prophets have come to me from the mountains of Ephraim. Please give them a talent of silver and two changes of garments.’” So Naaman said, “Please, take two talents.” And he urged him, and bound two talents of silver in two bags, with two changes of garments, and handed *them* to two of his servants; and they carried *them* on ahead of him. When he came to the citadel, he took *them* from their hand, and stored *them* away in the house; then he let the men go, and they departed.**

a. **I will run after him and take something from him:** As Gehazi heard Naaman and Elisha speak, he was shocked that his master refused to take anything from such a wealthy, influential, and grateful man. He figured that *someone* should benefit from such an opportunity, and he took the initiative to **run after** Naaman and **take something from him**.

i. Gehazi thought that Elisha *deserved* a reward (**my master has spared Naaman**). He also became exactly what Elisha avoided: becoming a *taker* (**take something from him**).

b. **Please, take two talents:** Gehazi probably thought that God was blessing his venture. After all, he asked for **a talent of silver** and Naaman was happy to give him **two talents**.

i. The fact that he **handed them to two of his servants** shows that this was a lot of silver. “It required two servants to carry these two talents, for, according to the computation above, each talent was about 120lbs. weight.” (Clarke)

c. **Stored them away in the house:** He deliberately hid them from Elisha. Gehazi knew that he did wrong.

2. ([2Ki 5:25-27](#)) Gehazi’s reward.

**Now he went in and stood before his master. Elisha said to him, “Where *did you go*, Gehazi?” And he said, “Your servant did not go anywhere.” Then he said to him, “Did not my heart go *with you* when the man turned back from his chariot to meet you? *Is it* time to receive money and to receive clothing, olive groves and vineyards, sheep and oxen, male and female servants? Therefore the leprosy of Naaman shall cling to you and your descendants forever.” And he went out from his presence leprous, as white as snow.**

a. **Did not my heart go with you:** Elisha *knew*. We don’t know if this was supernatural knowledge, or simply gained from observation and knowing Gehazi’s character. One way or another, Elisha knew. All Gehazi’s attempts to cover his sin failed.

b. **Is it time to receive money:** It seems that Elisha had no absolute law against receiving support from those who were touched by his ministry. Yet it was spiritually clear to Elisha, and should have been clear to Gehazi, that it was not appropriate at this **time** and circumstance.

i. **Money... clothing... olive groves... vineyards... sheep and oxen, male and female servants:** Obviously, Gehazi did not bring all of these things home with him from Naaman. Yet he *wanted* all of these things, and Elisha exposed his greedy heart.

ii. “The deepest wrong in the action of Gehazi was that it involved the Divine witness which had been borne to the Syrian, Naaman, by the action of the little serving maid in his house, and the prophet Elisha. Their action had been wholly disinterested, and for the glory of God.” (Morgan)

c. **Therefore the leprosy of Naaman shall cling to you and your descendants forever:** This was a severe judgment, but as a man in ministry Gehazi was under a stricter judgment. When he allowed himself to covet what Naaman had, he thought only in terms of the *money* Naaman possessed. God allowed him to keep the riches, but also gave him the *other* thing Naaman had – severe leprosy.

i. “Gehazi is not the last who has got money in an unlawful way, and has got God’s curse with it.” (Clarke)

ii. “We see here a pagan who by an act of faith is cured of leprosy and an Israelite who by an act of dishonor is cursed with it.” (Dilday)