

NAAMAN IS HEALED OF LEPROSY

Scripture:
II Kings 5:1-19

Materials Needed:
Pictures

Memory Verse: *Isaiah 55:8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways, my ways,” declares the Lord. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”*

Objectives: As a result of this lesson, I want my students

To Know—When Naaman went to Israel to be cured of leprosy, and a messenger relayed Elisha’s message to wash seven times in the Jordan River, at first Naaman got angry because it wasn’t what he expected, but later he did it God’s way and was healed.

To Realize—Although we may not understand why God does something a certain way, we should not become angry at him and refuse his plan for us, but humble ourselves to accept God’s way.

To Respond by—humbling themselves to accept God’s way rather than becoming angry when He doesn’t do something the way they expected him to.

Setting up the Story:

Share a personal story about a time when you prayed and thought something would turn out a certain way, and it didn’t. Don’t let on before the end of the story that it didn’t turn out as you had thought it would, and don’t tell your students at this point how you felt. Instead, ask: “How would you have felt if you were me in that situation? Have you ever had a time when you prayed, and you thought God was going to answer in a certain way....and then He didn’t?”

There was someone in today’s lesson who experienced that...

Scripture
II Kings
5:1-8

Telling the story:

- I. Naaman Goes to Israel to be Cured of Leprosy
 - A. Naaman, a great man, has leprosy
 - B. Servant girl tells him about prophet in Samaria
 - C. Naaman comes to king of Israel

II Kings
5:9-10

As you tell the story:

Look in II Kings 5:1 and tell me the name of the person. Tell me all the words that describe him.

Explain the importance of an officer. Only one thing wrong with him—what is it?

First of all, it’s pretty humbling to have to go to the country that is your enemy and ask for help! But then the King of Israel thinks this is a trick, because there is no cure for leprosy! He thinks

	<p>D. Naaman is sent to Elisha's house</p>	<p>they are trying to start a fight. But then Elisha hears about it, and he sends a message. (read vs. 8) What do you think is going through Namaan's mind as he is going to this prophet's house? "I wonder what he'll do? I wonder if he can really cure me? He'll probably come out and lay his hands on me."</p>
<p>II Kings 5:11-12</p>	<p>II. Messenger Relates Message from Elisha A. Naaman waits outside with all his horses and chariots B. Messengers tells him to wash 7x</p>	<p>Then finally arrive and Namaan, this officer, this man of importance is sitting there in his chariot with his horses—and Elisha's messenger comes out and tells him this message. (read vs. 10) What do you think Namaan is thinking now? "Oh, good. That's pretty easy to do." (get answers) He is MAD!!</p>
<p>II Kings 5:13-19</p>	<p>III. Naaman Becomes Angry Because It's not what he Expected A. He thought the man of God would come out and wave his hands B. His own rivers were better than Jordan</p> <p>IV. Naaman Accepts God's Way A. Counsellors persuade him B. He dips 7x in Jordan C. His flesh is restored D. He returns with thanksgiving</p>	<p>In fact, he is furious!! Read verse 11. Why? These are stupid instructions. Why shouldn't he just go home and wash in his own rivers. It's bad enough that he had to come to Israel in the first place. Do you know what Namaan needs in order to be healed of his leprosy? Humility. Maybe he is thinking how silly he is going to look! But he listens to his counselors and goes to the Jordan River. He wades out into the water. One. Two. Three. Four. "This is silly. Maybe I'll just go home!" Five. Six. "I really look stupid</p>

doing this!”
Seven.
What happened?

Concluding the Story:

Namaan’s biggest problem was not really his leprosy. His biggest problem was his pride that thought he knew better than God how something should be done. And when God didn’t heal him in the way He thought He would, or in the way He thought He should, Namaan got angry.

But what did he do at that point? The only thing he could do if he really wanted to be clean: Humble himself before God and then do things God’s way.

Have you ever felt like Namaan? That something hasn’t gone the way you think it was supposed to have gone, and you are mad at God or maybe mad at your parents, because it wasn’t what you thought? Maybe some plan that you had got messed up. Or maybe there was a big disappointment.

What is it that God is wanting from you? Humility.

Can you pray in your heart, “God, even when I don’t understand why you have done something a certain way, I will trust you and I will obey you”?

Let’s pray.

NAAMAN IS HEALED OF LEPROSY HELPS FOR THE TEACHER

Personal Application Questions:

1. In what situations have you experienced disappointment with God?
2. Is there anything currently about which you do not understand why God is doing something a certain way?
3. What can you do to respond with a humble spirit when you don't understand God's ways?

Application Questions to Think Through for your Students:

1. In what ways might your students experience disappointment with God?
2. How can you help them to understand that anger can be an indication of a proud response to God's ways? (i.e., "I know more about how this should be.")
3. How can your students respond with a humble spirit when they don't understand God's ways?

Memory Verse:

Isaiah 55:8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways, my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Post-Lesson Activity:

Play a game of Simon Says.

Homework Idea:

Interview three adults with the following questions:

Has there ever been something that you have been disappointed with God about?

What have you done when you have felt angry with something that has happened to you?

What Scripture or advice would you give to someone who doesn't understand why something has happened to them?