

LESSON 3

ELISHA AND NAAMAN

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Does What No One Else Can

SCRIPTURE: 2 Kings 5

GOD'S BIG STORY: Naaman comes to Israel in search of healing, and through a messenger, Elisha tells him to bathe in the Jordan River. Naaman is healed and learns that God can do what no one else can.

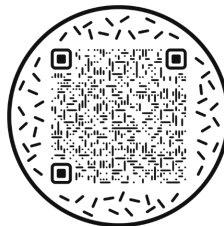
WORD OF WONDER: Here is what I am commanding you to do. Be strong and brave. Do not be afraid. Do not lose hope. I am the LORD your God. I will be with you everywhere you go. —Joshua 1:9

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- **PRE-SERVICE GAME: Build-A-Village
- Welcome Question: What is a special talent or skill you have?
- Curiosity Questions
- Discussion Questions for Younger and Older Kids
- Small Group Prayer Time
- Word of Wonder: Joshua 1:9
- Word of Wonder Activity
- LARGE GROUP
- Responding in Worship: Creative Clay



Victory Elementary Spotify playlist

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

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WORD OF WONDER: Joshua 1:9

When you see it from his perspective, Naaman's indignation in 2 Kings 5 seems understandable.

Naaman, the Aramean general who was suffering from a skin disease, had traveled a long way to be cured by the prophet Elisha. Arriving at Elisha's house with great pomp and circumstance, Naaman was insulted by the reception he received. Not only was Elisha not there, but the prophet had given, through his servant, a message for Naaman that sounded absurd: "Wash yourself in the Jordan River seven times. Then your skin will be healed" (2 Kings 5:10).

What?! If a muddy river bath was the answer, why couldn't Naaman have taken a dip in one much closer to home? Nevertheless, Naaman followed Elisha's instructions and experienced a miraculous healing.

It seems like this strange cleansing ritual was God's way of stripping away Naaman's preconceptions and expectations and bringing him to a place of earnest and genuine faith. It worked. Once healed, Naaman declared, "Now I know that there is no God anywhere in the whole world except in Israel" (2 Kings 5:15).

What is God stripping away in your life right now? Has He put you in a place that, at first glance, doesn't seem to make sense? Perhaps He is trying to focus your attention exclusively on Him and deepen your faith.

God's ways are often mysterious, and He rarely works according to your timetable. But His love for you is real, and His power is great. He can do what no one else can.

—**Josh Cooley**

Children's Minister and Author

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Naaman was the commander of the army of Aram. He had a skin disease—perhaps leprosy—that made him unclean in the eyes of the Israelites. Elisha was the God-appointed successor to the prophet Elijah after Elijah was taken up to heaven.

WHAT?

Naaman traveled to Samaria after his wife's servant, a young girl from Israel, told her of a prophet who could heal him. After following Elisha's instructions to wash in the Jordan River, God healed him even though he was not an Israelite. Then Naaman believed in God alone.

WHERE?

Aram was a kingdom centered around Damascus, northeast of the Kingdom of Israel. It was in territory Israel had lost since the days of King David and King Solomon. Naaman traveled from Aram to Samaria, which was the capital of Israel at the time.

WHEN?

Most of 1 and 2 Kings occur during the divided monarchy. Israel split in two kingdoms shortly after the death of King Solomon. The northern kingdom was Israel. The southern kingdom was Judah. This was a time of great idolatry, though God reserved a faithful remnant of people.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

God's healing of Naaman, an outsider to Israel, demonstrated that Israel's God is the God of all peoples. God made the way for Naaman to know Him, just as Jesus made the way for people from every tribe, tongue, and nation to be part of God's kingdom.

Small Group

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

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WORD OF WONDER: Joshua 1:9

Pre-Service Connection (15–20 min)

RESOURCES: [Coloring Page](#), whiteboard, poster paper, or butcher paper, writing utensils
Small group leaders should be seated in place in their small groups 20 minutes prior to service time. Have play stations with various board games, activities, or use games from the extra Games & Activities Guide to keep children occupied and engaged WITH you. This time is important to build relationships, welcome new kids, and keep structure in the room - you should be an active participant with them!

Learn the kids names, and make sure they all know yours too!

Warmly welcome new friends, and introduce them to your group.

Allow quieter kids who don't engage with the board games to color. Involve them in the curiosity questions.

As kids arrive..

Invite them to write/draw the answer to the Welcome Question: on the designated board:

“What is a special talent or skill you have?” Set out sheets of paper and colored pencils.

While kids are playing in their opening activity groups..

Pose the following “I’m curious” questions. Say “I’m curious...” before each question and give kids a chance to think about and answer each one. After each question, consider having kids share their ideas with a neighbor before you call on one or two of them to share with the group.

- **Can you remember a time you were really sick? Tell us about it.**
- **What is the most amazing thing you’ve ever seen?**

****NEW!! Large Group leaders will now lead an opening game or activity 10 minutes before service begins. It is very important that you are with your groups and ready to participate with them!**

Small Group Begins

After the Opening Activity, Large Group Leader will begin small group time by reading the Welcome Question aloud and inviting everyone to open their Bibles and begin.

Small Group Discussion: Younger Kids 5–8 min

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid), My First Hands On Bible (optional), Bible Story Picture (optional)

Invite kids to grab their Bibles, and help them find 2 Kings 5. Have volunteers help kids locate the book in the Table of Contents, then chapter and verse numbers.

Read 2 Kings 5:1–14 aloud in an NIV Bible OR pages 152-157 in the My First Hands On Bible for Kids.

- Who was Naaman? What big problem did he have?
- Through a messenger, Elisha told Naaman to do something. What did he tell him?
- Why didn't Naaman want to do what Elisha said?
- What happened when Naaman followed Elisha's instructions? How did Naaman respond?
- What are some things God can do that no one else can?
- When have you seen God do something amazing in your life?

"God did something amazing for Naaman: He healed him completely. God listens to us when we pray and ask Him for what we need. Let's take some time to pray to our God, who does what no one else can."

Prayer Time: Younger Kids

Invite the kids to share some prayer requests for themselves or for others in their lives. Invite kids to pray aloud for themselves or each other and then close the time by thanking God, for doing what no one else can.

Leader Tip: For Younger Kids. Younger kids aren't able to think in abstract terms as easily as older kids. Help them come up with concrete things they can pray for—like God's help at school or with getting along with siblings or for people in their lives who are sick.

Small Group Discussion: Older Kids 8–12 min

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid), Bible Story Picture(optional)

Invite kids to grab their Bibles, and help them find 2 Kings 5.

Select 3 volunteers to read 2 Kings 5:1-3, 4-7, 8-14 ahead of time.

Read the story summary found on the following page aloud, then discuss the questions below:

Turn to Page 3 of this guide and help kids understand the context of this passage.

- Where was Naaman from? Who told Naaman he should go see Elisha?
- Through a messenger, Elisha told Naaman to do something. What did he tell him?
- Why did Naaman get angry when he heard Elisha's instruction? What changed his mind?
- Why did Naaman ask Elisha for dirt and clay after he was healed?
- What are some things God can do that no one else can?
- What are some amazing things God has done for you? What are some ways you can thank God for what He has done?

"We saw God do something amazing for Naaman in God's big story today. The same God who healed Naaman is the one we talk and listen to today. He still does what no one else can, so let's take some time to talk with Him now in prayer."

Prayer Time: Older Kids

Encourage each kid to share a prayer request with another child. This can be for themselves or for someone else who needs God to work in their lives. Invite them to pray together, and then close the time by praying aloud for God to work in their lives, doing what no one else can.

Older Kids – Notes Page

****Complete the Notes Page with kids. Helping them to fill out all of the spaces. This is an important way for parents to see what their kids are learning each way and have meaningful conversations at home! Encourage them to keep them out while listening to the God's Big Story video and Experience It Script in Large Group.**

WORD OF WONDER

Here is what I am commanding you to do. Be strong and brave. Do not be afraid. Do not lose hope. I am the LORD your God. I will be with you everywhere you go.

—Joshua 1:9 (NirV)

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid)

"The Word of Wonder for the Victory series is Joshua 1:9. Today we saw how God gave Naaman hope when He healed him. In this verse, God is telling Joshua to not be afraid and to always be filled with hope because God does what no one else can! Let's read the Word of Wonder together."

Invite kids to open their Bibles to Joshua 1:9. Invite a volunteer to read the verse aloud. Then encourage the whole group to read the verse aloud in their strongest voices.

Gather kids to talk about these questions:

- **What words in this verse stand out to you most?**
- **What do those words show us about God? What do those words show us about us?**

Leader Tip: If needed, help kids define *hope*. Explain that hope is a confident expectation that God will do what He said He will do. It's more than wishful thinking—it's certainty that God will come through.

Word of Wonder Activity

Encourage everyone to recite the Word of Wonder together. Then choose a child to be the commander. He will help the class practice the verse together. The commander can invite everyone to flex their muscles to show how strong they are while they practice the verse. He can then encourage everyone to march behind him around the room while everyone says the verse. Invite him to come up with a command of his own for the kids while they say the verse. Invite a few different kids to be commanders, helping them come up with commands to give the other kids (such as saying the verse while dancing, challenging kids to say it solo, hopping up and down while reciting the verse, giving salutes while saying it, etc.).

Large Group!

Responding in Worship: Creative Clay

SUPPLIES: play dough (enough for every kid), tables, disposable tablecloths or tarps (optional), tape (optional), camera or camera app (optional)

RESOURCES: [Victory Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Set up tables that kids can use as a surface for their play dough. As an alternative, protect carpeting by taping disposable tablecloths or tarps to the floor or kids to sit on as they work with play dough.

"Today we saw that God healed Naaman in an amazing way. When Elisha told Naaman to go wash in the river, Naaman didn't understand and maybe thought he was even too good to do what Elisha said. But when Naaman did it, God healed him completely. No one else could do it, but God could!"

God has done amazing things for us too. He sent Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. He forgives our sins—the wrong things we do—and He invites us into new life with Him. God gives us His Holy Spirit to help us to live in His good ways. He heals us, and He provides for us. God does what no one else can!

After God healed Naaman, Naaman took home some dirt and clay from Israel so that he could build an altar and worship God alone. He recognized that God was the one true God. Let's take some time to think about what God has done in our own lives and create a kind of altar like Naaman did: a symbol to remind us of His work and to help us worship Him.

Give each kid a bit of play dough and invite them to find a quiet spot at a table or on the floor. Encourage them to think about something God has done in their lives or the life of a family member or friend. Using their play dough, encourage them to create something to represent what God has done for them or something they're praying God will do in their lives. They can create an image or a word using the play dough. While the kids work, play the [Victory Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

After the kids have had some time to work, go around the room and invite them to share with everyone else what they've created.

Wow, look at the amazing things God has done and is doing for us! We serve a God who can do what no one else can—He is worthy of our worship!"

Close your time in prayer, thanking God for all He has done. Either send kids' play dough creations home with them or collect the play dough. If you collect it, consider snapping quick photos of each kid's creation first and sharing them with families.