

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: Be strong and brave. Do not be afraid. God will be with you wherever you go.

—from Joshua 1:9

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: My Help, Praise
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing





INVITATION

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

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WORD OF WONDER: From 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 Naaman 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.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

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

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Welcome

Slide: Series Welcome Loop

As kids arrive...

Walk around the room and welcome as many kids as possible by showing excitement that they have joined you. Give high-fives, fist bumps, encourage them to sit on the floor in their spots, and ask questions about their week.

Video: Countdown

Welcome kids to worship time. Introduce yourself by name.

Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions

Introduce the kids to Tac, the curious cat.

Leader: Oh look, there's our friend Tac the Cat! Hi, Tac! Wait ... you don't look so good. Are you feeling OK?

Tac the Cat: (in a gloomy, sad-sounding voice) Hi, kids. You're right. I don't feel well. And I'm sad! My friend got a new yarn toy, and I was really looking forward to playing with it together! But when my mom realized I wasn't feeling well, she told me I should drink some water and then lie down and rest.

Leader: Oh no, Tac, I'm so sorry. It's no fun being sick or missing out on fun things. We all get sick sometimes though, and I think your mom is right.

Tac the Cat: I don't understand. How can that make me better? I just want to go outside and play right now!

Leader: I know it's hard. Sometimes, things don't make sense to us, but because you trust that your mom knows what's best for you, it's good to do what she says.

Tac the Cat: I was really looking forward to playing with my friend and his new toy, but I guess you're right. I should listen to my mom. She always knows what's best, and I know she loves me! I still don't know how rest and water will help, but I trust my mom.

Leader: I'm sure you'll feel better in no time! This reminds me of someone in the Bible who was sick with a disease, and someone told him how to get better. The person who was sick didn't want to do what the man said at first, but then he did—and something amazing happened!

Tac the Cat: That sounds like a great story! I wonder what he had to do to get better! I'm going to go lie down like my mom said. Bye, kids!

Leader: Bye, Tac! Feel better soon!

"Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment and think: what do you do to try to get better when you're feeling sick? Allow the kids to respond. What's one thing you can do that no one else can? Allow the kids to respond. We all see and hear things that make us curious. Did you ever stop to think about what God can do?"

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Today's Wonder Truth is **GOD DOES WHAT NO ONE ELSE CAN**. Today, we'll discover how God does what no one else can!"

Declaring God's Wonder

SLIDE: DECLARATION

Encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.

Thank You, God, that You made me! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much; (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

His love for me is big. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Bring your arms down from the sky, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

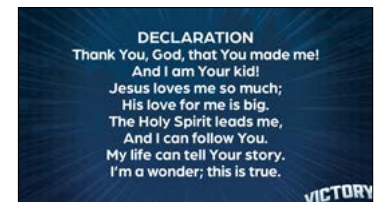
March like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands up, shaking your fingers, celebrating ("praise hands").



Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into worship lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use your own words. Here is an example: **God, thank You that You're victorious! We can't wait to hear Your Word today and learn about Your power. We invite Your Holy Spirit to help us hear from You and show us that, with You, we can have victory. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

"Today, we'll learn about how God can do anything—even what seems impossible! Let's sing about God's great love and power together!"

WORSHIP SONGS: My Help, Praise

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them today's story comes from the book of 2 Kings in the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where to find the story.

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible and what do I see? (*Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.*)

God's big story, waiting for me! (*Point to yourself.*)

"Let's watch part of God's big story, which comes from the book of 2 Kings in the Bible."

VIDEO: GODS BIG STORY

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: Bibles (2), camouflage abric or bandana, box of adhesive bandages, toy crown, blue disposable tablecloth or fabric, coins, clay or play dough, scissors (optional)

If you're using real props, spread the props out across the room. The order they will show up in the story is: camouflage abric or bandana, bandages, Bible, crown, blue disposable tablecloth, coins, clay or play dough. Spread out the disposable blue tablecloth or fabric so it looks like a river. Kids will go to each object as it is mentioned in the story.

"Today we're going to learn about a man named Naaman. Can everyone say "Naaman"? Pause for kids to repeat after you. Great job! Naaman was a commander in the army of Aram. Do you see anything in the room that looks like something a person in the army would use? Direct kids' attention to the camouflage abric or bandana. That's right! Can you go and stand by it? Pause for kids to go to the object. Naaman was brave and well-liked because God gave him success. Unfortunately, many people in Aram didn't believe in God. They believed in fake gods instead.



Naaman had a problem. He had a terrible skin disease. Now can you find something that you might put on your skin if it hurt? Encourage kids to stand by the bandages. Naaman's wife had a servant from Israel who felt bad for Naaman and knew of a way he could be healed. She told Naaman's wife about a man in Israel named Elisha. Elisha was a prophet or messenger, of God, and he could heal Naaman. What in the room is filled with God's words to us? Encourage kids to run to the Bible next. Good! Yes, a Bible reminds us of God's words.

Naaman told the king of Aram about this. Can you run and stand by something that reminds us of a king? Direct kids to the crown. The king told Naaman to go to Israel.

Naaman went to see Elisha, but when he got to Elisha's house, a messenger came out. "Go, wash in the Jordan River seven times, and your skin will be healed," the messenger said.

Naaman got upset because Elisha didn't come out to talk with him and heal him. "Why didn't he pray to his God and wave his hand over me? That would have worked! Besides, we have great rivers in Damascus—better than the rivers of Israel. I could have washed there." Then he turned to leave.

But Naaman's servants encouraged him to do what Elisha had said. They said, "You would have done something special to be healed. Why not do this simple thing?" So Naaman went down and dipped in the Jordan River seven times. Do you see something that looks like a river? Go to it! Pause for kids to go to the blue tablecloth or fabric. Good job!

Do you know what happened when Naaman dipped in the river? His skin was healed! He was pure and clean again. And his heart was changing too. Do you think Naaman was happy to be healed? What do you think his face would have looked like after God healed him? Can you show me on your own faces how you would feel if God healed you? Pause for the kids to respond.

Naaman went to see Elisha and said, “Now I know that there is no God anywhere in the whole world except in Israel. So please accept a gift from me” (2 Kings 5:15). He wanted Elisha to take silver, gold, and nice clothes. Let’s go to the coins. Allow kids to go to the coins But Elisha wouldn’t accept it. He only wanted Naaman to know that God is real, unlike the fake gods in Aram. Besides, Naaman’s healing was itself a gift from God and not something he could buy.

From then on, Naaman worshiped God alone. He took dirt and clay from Israel to build an altar to worship God in Aram. Do you see anything that we could use to sculpt an altar with? Direct kids to go to the clay or play dough. Naaman realized he couldn’t have healed himself. A king or fake god couldn’t have healed him either. God does what no one else can.”

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Ask the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God’s big story:

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

"Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD DOES WHAT NO ONE ELSE CAN**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

Naaman was not part of Israel; he was not one of God’s special people. When God healed Naaman, He showed that He is the God of all people, not just Israel. God made the way for Naaman to know Him just as Jesus made the way for people from every tribe, language, and nation to be part of God’s kingdom—including us!"

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for doing what only He can do.

God, thank You for doing what only You can do in our lives! Help us live for You every day as You guide us with Your Holy Spirit. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: As we go today, may God remind you that He loves you, He sees you, and He does what no one else can do for you. Worship Him with all your heart, soul, and strength!