

## 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

- Play Stations:
  - Wipe Him Clean
  - Make a River
  - Elisha and Naaman Coloring Sheet
- Word of Wonder: From Joshua 1:9
- God's Big Story / Snack
- Circle Time: All in the Water
- LARGE GROUP
- Responding in Worship: Washed in Water
- Game: Sticky Note Relay



[Victory Preschool Spotify playlist](#)



## LESSON 3 FOR LEADERS

### INVITATION

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

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** God Does What No One Else Can

**SCRIPTURE:** 2 Kings 5

**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.

## LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

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

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** God Does What No One Else Can

**SCRIPTURE:** 2 Kings 5

**WORD OF WONDER:** From Joshua 1:9

### Play Stations

**SUPPLIES:** large resealable bags (2–4), washable markers, masking tape, wet wipes (1 pack), 9" x 13" baking dish or tray, pitcher of water, foil, coloring utensils, sand or dirt (optional), bucket (optional), spoons and cups (optional), small stones and moss (optional)

**RESOURCES:** [Naaman Picture \(2–4 copies\)](#), [Elisha and Naaman Coloring Sheet \(1 per kid\)](#)

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

**"Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning about today?"**

#### Play Station: Wipe Him Clean

**Set-up:** Make two to four copies of the Naaman Picture. Insert each Naaman Picture into a resealable bag. Tape the bags to the table. Use washable markers to draw spots all over the Naaman figure on the outside of the bag. Set out wipes.

**Play:** Encourage kids to use the wipes to clean the spots off Naaman. Once they're done, they can draw new "spots" on him for the next kids to have a turn.



#### Play Station: Make a River

**Set-up:** Tear off sheets of foil and place near the baking dish or tray. If using sand or dirt, pour sand or dirt into a bucket and place spoons and cups near the dish. Set a pitcher of water near the table (for an adult to use).

**Play:** With an adult helping, kids can use the foil to make a "riverbed" in the tray. You will want to bend the foil into a "U" or half-pipe shape before setting it in the dish or tray. It will work best if you add two layers of the foil. If using dirt or sand, kids can pack it around the outside of the river. Next, kids can slowly pour the water into the foil. If using stones and moss, kids can place them in and around the river.



**Leader Tip:** Instead of water, you could use shredded blue tissue paper or construction paper. Kids could help shred and put it in the river.

## Play Station: Elisha and Naaman Coloring Sheet

**Set-up:** Print one copy per kid of the Coloring Sheet. Set out the Coloring Sheets and coloring utensils.

**Play:** Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a special talent they have or something that makes them unique.

## Word of Wonder

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, blue disposable tablecloth or fabric (from God's Big Story)

Move the blue tablecloth from the previous activity so it's in the middle of the room and spread it out like a river. Ask kids to line up shoulder to shoulder so they're standing in front of it.

**"We're going to do what Naaman did—jump in the river seven times! Each time we jump in the river, let's say the Word of Wonder.**

### Make It Inclusive!

If you have a kid who is unable to jump, have her stay with a leader and help count by holding up fingers as the group jumps and recites the verse. Encourage the counter to also say the verse with the group.

**Ready, set, let's jump in! Everyone jump into the river, and then let's wait and say the Word of Wonder together before jumping back out.** Repeat seven times with the group, saying the Word of Wonder each time.

**We can be brave and strong like our verse says because God is with us, and we learned today in our story 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

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

- **BE STRONG AND BRAVE.**—Flex both arms.
- **DO NOT BE AFRAID.**—Shake head.
- **GOD WILL BE WITH YOU**—Point up.
- **WHEREVER YOU GO.**—Walk in place.
- **FROM JOSHUA 1:9**—Hold your hands together in front, palms together, as if opening a book.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **What's the most amazing thing you've seen or heard of God doing?**
- **How has God helped you when you were afraid of something?**

## God's Big Story / Snack

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

**Read pages 152–157 in the My First Hands On Bible.**

## Circle Time: All in the Water

**SUPPLIES:** blue disposable tablecloth or fabric

Lay the blue disposable tablecloth onto the floor (to make a pretend river) and have the kids stand by it.

**Today we heard how Naaman had to get in a body of water called the Jordan River to be healed.**

**Have you ever seen a river?** Allow the kids to respond. **We're going to put different parts of our body into the pretend river while we do a dance and sing! Just follow along and do the motion we sing about. We're going to pause after each part to answer some questions about the story too.** Each time you tell the kids to "put" a body part into the river, encourage them to hold it over the blue tablecloth.

Sing to the tune of "Hokey Pokey" and demonstrate for kids:

**You put your right hand in,** (put right hand over the river)

**You put your right out.** (pull right hand out)

**You put your right hand in, and God heals you so let's shout!** (put right hand over the river)

**You do a "praise God" dance, and you turn yourself around.** (dance around in a circle)

**That's what it's all about!**

**Great job, everyone!** Choose a kid to answer a question from the list below before moving on to the next round. Ask a question after each round.

- Left leg
- Left arm
- Right leg
- Head
- Whole self

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **What is the name of the army commander?** (Naaman)
- **What big problem did Naaman have?** (He had a skin disease.)
- **What is the name of God's prophet (or messenger) in God's big story?** (Elisha)
- **What did Elisha's messenger tell Naaman to do in order to be healed?** (wash himself in the Jordan River seven times)
- **What happened to Naaman as soon as he did what Elisha had said?** (God healed him of his skin disease.)
- **What did Naaman do after he was healed?** (built an altar, worshiped God)
- **What did God do for Naaman that no one else could do?** (healed him)
- **How can you worship God today for being so amazing?**

**"Very good! That was fun! We put our bodies in the water like Naaman did when God healed him in the part of God's big story that we heard today. We learned how God is powerful and can do what no one else can! Let's talk to God in prayer now."**

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and to thank God for how He takes care of us and can do what no one else can do.

## Head to Large Group!

### Responding in Worship: Washed in Water

**SUPPLIES:** red washable paint, sink with water and soap, or wet wipes

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** songs from the [Victory Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Play songs from the [Victory Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) while kids are participating in the activity.

**"We're going to take turns washing away our own spots and praying to God! I will come around and mark your hands with a few dots of paint. As you are washing away your spots, you can talk to God about something you want to tell Him. Maybe you feel sad about something, or you want to thank Him for something special He did for you or your family. God is able to do what no one else can! He can help you—and we can worship Him for all the amazing ways He works in our world and in our families. Not only did he wash away Naaman spots, but He sent His Son Jesus to wash away and forgive us of our sin, all the bad things we do that disobeys God. Because of Jesus, we are clean and made new! When you look at your clean hands, think about how God forgives us and cleans our hearts."**

If possible, separate into groups with multiple volunteers painting the dots and helping kids wash. Don't rush through this time. Encourage kids to think and pray silently as they participate. Give them a paper towel to dry their hands when they're done. Consider demonstrating yourself and saying your own prayer aloud so kids can see an example.

## Game: Sticky Note Relay

**SUPPLIES:** sticky notes or colored dot stickers (1 per kid)

**Leader Tip:** You could use butcher paper to draw a person or trace a kid's body to hang on the wall as an alternative to using a person.

### Make It Inclusive!

If you have a kid who is unable to run, you could choose this kid to be the leader or have them hold the paper person, if you're using one.

**"Do you remember what God did for Naaman? Allow answers. Yes, He took away Naaman's skin disease. God can do what no one else can! In this game, we'll press sticky notes onto one person and then race to take them away!"**

Divide your group into two teams. Choose a leader for each team (this individual can be an adult or kid). Give each kid a sticky note. Direct the teams to stand at one end of the room and the chosen leaders to stand at the other end.

**When I say, "Go," each team is going to take turns running down to their team's chosen leader and putting a sticky note onto them. Then you will run back and tag the next person to go. The first team to get all their sticky notes stuck to their leader wins!** Have kids make a line. Then signal by saying "go!" to begin the race. The first team to have all their sticky notes stuck to their chosen leader wins. If a sticky note falls off, it can be replaced by the leader.

**Great job, everyone! Now we're going to race again to see which team can take all their sticky notes off their leader first."** Have teams line up again. Signal the start of the second round by saying "go!" The first team to take all the sticky notes off of their chosen leader and race back to the starting point wins.