Preschool–Grade 6

Naaman Is Healed

Sunday School Lesson for 3rd to 5th Grade, 45–60 minutes

Main point: Naaman wanted God to do something big, but God asked him to do something small. When he humbled himself and obeyed, God healed him. Be humble and do what God says.
Bible passage: 2 Kings 5. Read it before class.
Memory verse: "And he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and came, and stood before him: and he said, Behold, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel: now therefore, I pray thee, take a blessing of thy servant." *2 Kings 5:15 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible for each child (or one for every two children), stickers (one for each child), a whiteboard or large paper, a marker, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the board.

1. Opening game: Big Thing, Small Thing (5–10 minutes)

Hold up the stickers. Ask: *Who would do 20 jumping jacks for a sticker?* Lots of hands go up. Let them do it. Then say: "Now, who will come up, look me in the eye and say, 'Please, may I have a sticker?'" Some kids will feel shy or silly. Give a sticker to everyone who asks. Then ask: *Which was harder, the big thing or the small thing? Why?* Say: "Sometimes the small, simple thing is the hardest, because our pride gets in the way. Today we meet a great captain who almost missed God's healing because the job was too small."

2. Bible story: Naaman Is Healed (15 minutes)

Kids open their Bibles to 2 Kings 5. When you reach a **Look up** line, a child finds the verse and reads it out loud. Tell the rest in your own words.

A great man with a sickness. Look up 2 Kings 5:1. Naaman was "captain of the host," the commander of the army of the king of Syria. He was a great man, **honourable** (highly respected), and "a mighty man in valour," very brave. The Bible even says the LORD had used him to give Syria victory. "But he was a leper." Leprosy was a sickness of the skin that no one could cure.

A little maid speaks up. Syrian soldiers had taken a **little maid**, a young girl, captive from the land of Israel. She **waited on** (served) Naaman's wife (5:2). **Look up 2 Kings 5:3.** She said, "Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy." **Recover** means make him well. She was far from home, a servant, but she told them where to find God's prophet.

A letter to the wrong king. The king of Syria sent Naaman with a letter to the king of Israel, and Naaman took ten **talents** of silver (big weights of silver), six thousand pieces of gold, and ten **changes of raiment** (sets of fine clothes) (5:5–6). The king of Israel **rent** (tore) his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and to make alive?" (5:7). He thought Syria was looking for a fight. **Look up 2 Kings 5:8.** Elisha, "the man of God," said, "let him come now to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel."

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Seven times in Jordan. Naaman came with his horses and his chariot and stood at the door of Elisha's house (5:9). **Look up 2 Kings 5:10.** Elisha sent a **messenger** (a helper with a message): "Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean."

Too small for a great man. Naaman was **wroth** (very angry). **Look up 2 Kings 5:11.** He thought Elisha would come out, call on the name of the LORD and wave his hand over the sick place. He said the rivers of Damascus, **Abana** and **Pharpar**, were better than all the waters of Israel, and he went away in a **rage** (5:12). **Look up 2 Kings 5:13.** His servants said, "My father, if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldest thou not have done it? how much rather then, when he saith to thee, Wash, and be clean?" (**bid thee** means told you to.)

Clean! Look up 2 Kings 5:14. Naaman went down and **dipped** himself seven times in Jordan, just as the man of God said, "and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean." **Look up 2 Kings 5:15.** He came back with all his company and said, "now I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel." He wanted to give Elisha a **blessing** (a gift), but Elisha said, "As the LORD liveth, before whom I stand, I will receive none" (5:16). Naaman promised to worship only the LORD from then on (5:17).

Gehazi. Elisha's servant **Gehazi** wanted some of Naaman's riches. He ran after Naaman and told a lie: "My master hath sent me" (5:20–22). Naaman gave him two talents of silver and two changes of clothes (5:23). Gehazi hid them and told Elisha, "Thy servant went no whither" (5:24–25), which means "I didn't go anywhere." But Elisha knew (5:26). The leprosy of Naaman came on Gehazi (5:27).

Write on the board: **Naaman wanted:** a big show, better rivers (5:11–12). **God asked:** wash seven times (5:10). **Naaman obeyed:** clean (5:14).

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3. Questions to ask (10 minutes)

Thinking questions (no single right answer; let kids talk)

1. The little maid was taken far from home, but she still talked about God's prophet (5:3). Why do you think she cared about Naaman?
2. Why do you think Naaman was so angry about a simple job (5:11–12)?
3. Naaman's servants were brave to talk to their angry master (5:13). When is it hard to give someone good advice?
4. What is a small thing God asks you to do that is hard because of pride?
5. Elisha would not take a gift, but Gehazi lied to get one (5:16, 5:20–25). What was the difference in their hearts?

Recall questions

1. Where was the prophet the little maid talked about? *(In Samaria, 2 Kings 5:3)*
2. What did the king of Israel do when he read the letter? *(He tore his clothes, 5:7)*
3. Which two rivers did Naaman say were better? *(Abana and Pharpar, 5:12)*

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4. Memory verse: Erase a Word (5 minutes)

Explain the old words: **returned** means came back; **the man of God** is Elisha; his **company** is the people with him; **Behold** means look; **I pray thee** means please; a **blessing** here is a gift; **thy servant** is Naaman speaking humbly about himself. Read the verse on the board together. Erase two words and read it again. Keep erasing two words at a time until the board is empty and the class can say it alone. Then kids say it to a partner.

5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "Naaman found out there is one true God. That God loves you. The Bible says: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means all of us have done wrong, and none of us is as good as God. The one true God came to earth as a man: Jesus is God manifest in the flesh (1 Timothy 3:16). Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day (1 Corinthians 15:3–4). How do we obey the gospel? 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means to turn away from sin; our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are **buried with Jesus in baptism**, all the way under the water, in Jesus' name. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we come up to live a new life (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, and we speak with other tongues as the Spirit gives the words (Acts 2:4). The Bible calls this being born again (John 3:5)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.
This week: when you are asked to do something small, do it without arguing. And like the little maid, tell someone where they can find help from God.

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6. Activity: Bible Look-Up Race (10–15 minutes)

Kids work in pairs with one Bible. Read a reference and a question. The first pair to find the verse and read the answer out loud wins the point.

1. 2 Kings 5:1: Who was Naaman captain for? *(The king of Syria)*
2. 2 Kings 5:2: Whom did the little maid wait on? *(Naaman's wife)*
3. 2 Kings 5:5: How many changes of raiment did Naaman take? *(Ten)*
4. 2 Kings 5:9: What did Naaman come with to Elisha's house? *(His horses and his chariot)*
5. 2 Kings 5:10: Whom did Elisha send out to Naaman? *(A messenger)*
6. 2 Kings 5:12: What were the rivers of Damascus called? *(Abana and Pharpar)*
7. 2 Kings 5:14: Naaman's flesh became like the flesh of whom? *(A little child)*
8. 2 Kings 5:16: What did Elisha say about the gift? *("I will receive none")*

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that You are the one true God. Forgive us when our pride gets in the way. Help us be humble and do what You say, even the small things. Make us brave like the little maid, to tell others about You. In Jesus' name, amen."

Told gently on purpose: Gehazi gets a few plain sentences in the Bible's own words. Say only that the leprosy came on him (5:27); no more detail. Leave out 5:18 (the house of Rimmon) for this age. **Teach it as the Bible tells it:** don't teach Naaman's seven dips as a baptism. He washed in the river, and God healed his skin sickness (5:14).

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