Preschool–Grade 6

Naaman Is Healed

Sunday School Lesson for Preteens (Ages 11–12), 45–60 minutes

Main point: Pride wants God to work our way; humility does what God says. Naaman nearly walked away from his healing because the command was too simple, and a servant girl and his own servants pointed him back to God.
Bible passage: 2 Kings 5. Students read 2 Kings 5:1–16 and 5:20–27 out loud themselves.
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)* and "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up." *James 4:10 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible for each student, paper or a notebook and a pen for each student, a whiteboard and a marker, and one take-home sheet for each student.
Before class: read 2 Kings 5 and James 4:10. Write both memory verses on the board. Decide who reads which verses, or go around the room a few verses each.

1. Opening game: How Would You Expect It? (5–10 minutes)

Ask: *If the most famous doctor in the world agreed to see you, what would you expect the visit to look like?* Write the answers on the board (a big hospital, the doctor in person, special tests, expensive medicine). Then ask: *What if the doctor sent a helper to the door with a note that said, "Go wash in the creek seven times"?* Let them react. Say: "That is almost exactly what happened to a great army captain. Watch what his pride nearly cost him."

2. Bible story: Students Read It (15 minutes)

Read out loud: 2 Kings 5:1–16. Students take turns, a few verses each. Old words in this passage:

- **captain of the host** (5:1): commander of the army; **honourable**: highly respected; **mighty man in valour**: very brave soldier; **leper**: a person with leprosy, a skin sickness no one could cure
- **by companies** (5:2): in raiding bands; **a little maid**: a young girl; **waited on**: served
- **Would God my lord were with the prophet** (5:3): I wish my master were with the prophet; **recover him**: heal him
- **talents** (5:5): large weights of silver; **changes of raiment**: sets of fine clothes
- **rent his clothes** (5:7): tore his clothes in distress; **seeketh a quarrel**: is looking for a fight
- **wroth** (5:11): very angry; **strike his hand over the place**: wave his hand over the sick skin
- **Abana and Pharpar** (5:12): the rivers of Damascus, Naaman's home city; **in a rage**: furious
- **bid thee** (5:13): told you to; **how much rather then**: how much more then
- **his flesh came again** (5:14): his skin was made new; **clean**: healed, the sickness gone
- **take a blessing** (5:15): accept a gift; **urged**: pressed hard (5:16)

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Tell in your own words: Naaman asked for two mules' **burden** (load) of earth to take home, because he would offer sacrifices to no other gods, "but unto the LORD" (5:17). Elisha said, "Go in peace" (5:19).

Read out loud: 2 Kings 5:20–27. Old words in this passage:

- **spared** (5:20): let him go without paying; **take somewhat of him**: get something from him
- **lighted down from the chariot** (5:21): got down from the chariot; **Be content** (5:23): please, go ahead
- **bestowed them** (5:24): hid them away; **went no whither** (5:25): didn't go anywhere
- **cleave unto thee** (5:27): stick to you; **thy seed**: your children after you

Point out the contrast: a captive girl spoke up for God (5:3); a mighty captain had to be talked into obeying (5:13); Elisha refused the riches "As the LORD liveth" (5:16); Gehazi used the same words, "as the LORD liveth," to chase them (5:20).

3. Questions to ask (15 minutes)

1. The little maid had every reason to be bitter toward the family that held her captive (5:2). What does her message in 5:3 show about her heart?
2. Naaman said, "Behold, I thought" (5:11). How do our own ideas about how God should work get in the way of obeying Him?
3. His servants said a "great thing" would have been easier for him (5:13). Why is it sometimes easier to do something big than something humble?
4. Naaman went from "Behold, I thought" (5:11) to "now I know" (5:15). What changed him?
5. Elisha refused the gift (5:16). Why might it matter that people saw God's healing was not for sale?
6. Gehazi got the silver and lost far more (5:20–27). Where do you see that same trade today?

4. Memory verse (5 minutes)

Old words in 2 Kings 5:15: **returned** means came back; **the man of God** is Elisha; **company** means the people with him; **Behold** means look; **I pray thee** means please; **a blessing** is a gift; **thy servant** is Naaman speaking humbly about himself. In James 4:10, **in the sight of the Lord** means before God; **lift you up** means God will raise you up. Read both verses together. Then students cover one phrase at a time and quiz a partner. Say 2 Kings 5:15 this week; keep working on James 4:10 next week.

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5. What this means for us (5–10 minutes)

Say: "Naaman learned there is one true God, and that God loves you. But the Bible is honest: 'all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, God who came as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). 'Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures' (1 Corinthians 15:3–4, KJV). We obey the gospel the way Peter preached it: '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) We **repent**, turning from sin, and our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are buried with Jesus by baptism in His name, all the way under the water. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we rise to walk in newness of life, a brand-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 utterance, which means as He gives the words (Acts 2:4). Jesus called this being born of water and of the Spirit (John 3:5)."
Pray with the students, 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.

6. Activity: Journal (10 minutes)

Each student writes privately. No one has to share. Write these three prompts on the board:

1. Where do I say "Behold, I thought" to God, wanting things my way?
2. What simple thing has God already asked me to do that I keep putting off?
3. Who could I tell about God this week, the way the little maid did? Write a short prayer asking God to make you humble (James 4:10).
   If there is time, invite a few volunteers to share one sentence.

This week: read 2 Kings 5 again at home. Do one small, humble thing you have been avoiding, without being asked twice.

7. Prayer

"Dear God, You are the one true God. Forgive us for wanting You to work our way. Make us humble, ready to do what You say, even when it seems small. Give us the courage of the little maid to tell others about You. In Jesus' name, amen."

Told gently on purpose: Gehazi's leprosy (5:27) is read as written, with no added detail. **Left out on purpose:** 5:18, where Naaman asked the LORD to pardon him when he had to go with his master into the house of Rimmon, a false god's temple; if a student asks, read 5:18–19 together and say only what the text says: Naaman asked, and Elisha said, "Go in peace." **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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