Preschool–Grade 6

# Naaman Is Healed

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

**Main point:** Be humble and do what God says, even when it seems small.
**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, a blue towel, blanket or long strip of blue paper (the Jordan River), 7 paper waves, a marker, tape, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
**Before class:** write the memory verse on the 7 paper waves (see part 4). Lay the blue river on the floor. Put a bookmark in your Bible at 2 Kings 5.

## 1. Opening game: Seven Times (5 minutes)

Call out a simple thing to do, and the kids do it exactly seven times while everyone counts out loud: clap seven times, hop seven times, touch your toes seven times, turn around seven times. Then try a tricky one: "Blink seven times!" Say: "You did exactly what I said, seven times. Today we will hear about a great man who was told to do something seven times, and at first he did not want to!"

## 2. Bible story: Naaman Is Healed (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to 2 Kings 5, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Tell it in your own words:

**Naaman** was the captain of the army of the king of **Syria**. He was a great man, brave and strong, and his king thought very highly of him (2 Kings 5:1). But Naaman had **leprosy**. Leprosy was a sickness of the skin, and no one could make it go away. The Bible says, "but he was a leper" (5:1). A **leper** is a person with leprosy.

In Naaman's house there was a **little maid**, a young girl who had been taken away from her home in the land of Israel. She worked for Naaman's wife (5:2). One day the little maid said to Naaman's wife, "Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy" (5:3). That means, "I wish my master could go to God's prophet in Israel! The prophet would make him well." She was just a girl, far from home, but she told them about God's prophet!

Naaman's king sent him to the king of Israel with a letter, and Naaman took lots of silver, gold and fine clothes with him (5:5–6). When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God...?" He knew he could not make anyone well (5:7). But God's prophet **Elisha** heard about it and said, "let him come now to me" (5:8).

*The story continues:* So Naaman came with his horses and his chariot and stood at the door of Elisha's house (5:9). Elisha did not even come out. He sent a **messenger** to say, "Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean" (5:10). **Thy flesh shall come again** means "your skin will be well again." **Clean** means the sickness would be gone.

Naaman was **wroth**, which means very angry (5:11). He said, "Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me" (5:11). He thought the prophet would come out and do something big! He said the rivers back home in Damascus were better than the rivers of Israel, and he went away in a **rage**, very angry (5:12).

But Naaman's servants came to him and 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?" (5:13). That means, "If the prophet had told you to do something big and hard, you would have done it. So why not do this small thing? Just wash and be clean!"

So Naaman **humbled** himself. To be humble means you stop thinking you are better than others, and you do what God says. **Read 2 Kings 5:14 from your Bible:** "Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean." Count the seven times with the kids on your fingers. Say: "His skin was as smooth and new as a little child's skin. God healed him!"

Naaman went back to Elisha and said, "Behold, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel" (5:15). He knew the God of Israel is the only true God! Naaman wanted to give Elisha a gift, but Elisha said, "I will receive none." He would not take it (5:16).

Say: "Naaman wanted something big. God asked for something small. When Naaman was humble and obeyed, God healed him."

## 3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. What sickness did Naaman have? *(Leprosy, a skin sickness, 2 Kings 5:1)*
2. Who told Naaman's wife about God's prophet? *(The little maid, 5:2–3)*
3. What did Elisha tell Naaman to do? *(Go and wash in Jordan seven times, 5:10)*
4. How did Naaman feel at first? *(Very angry, 5:11–12)*
5. What happened when Naaman dipped seven times? *(His skin was like a little child's skin, and he was clean, 5:14)*


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## 4. Memory verse: Seven Waves game (5 minutes)

Tape the 7 waves up in order: *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.* 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 talking about himself. Read the verse together. Then take one wave away and read it again. Keep taking waves away, one each time, until the kids can say the whole verse by themselves.

## 5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "Naaman learned that there is one true God. That God loves you very much. But everyone has done wrong things. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. The one true God came to earth as a man, Jesus (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us how to obey the gospel, the good news about Jesus: '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 we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (Acts 2:4)."

*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 a grown-up asks you to do something small, do it right away, without grumbling. And like the little maid, tell someone about God.


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## 6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **Naaman word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/naaman-word-search), the Naaman crossword, maze, coloring page or craft (vbshq.com/bible-stories/naaman), or **Seven Times in Jordan:** act out the story. Choose a Naaman, a little maid, a messenger from Elisha, and two servants. The little maid says, "He would recover him of his leprosy!" (5:3). The messenger says, "Go and wash in Jordan seven times" (5:10). Naaman stomps away angry, and the servants say, "Wash, and be clean!" (5:13). Naaman stands in the blue river and crouches down and stands up seven times while the class counts. On "seven," Naaman jumps up and shows his clean hands. Switch parts and play again.

## 7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that You are the one true God. Help us be humble and do what You say, even the small things. Help us tell others about You, like the little maid did. In Jesus' name, amen."

**Left out on purpose:** the end of the chapter (2 Kings 5:17–27). Naaman asked for two mules' load of earth to take home (5:17), and Elisha's servant **Gehazi** lied to get silver and clothes from Naaman, so the leprosy came on Gehazi (5:20–27). Keep it for older kids. If a child asks what happened next, say: "Naaman went home in peace (5:19). He said he would worship only the LORD (5:17)." **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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