

Slave girl at Naaman's house

2 Kings 5:1-15 (NRSV)



Theme: Trust and Obey

The Healing of Naaman

⁵ Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master, because by him the Lord had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. ² Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. ³ She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." ⁴ So Naaman went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of Israel had said. ⁵ And the king of Aram said, "Go then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel."

He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments. ⁶ He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his leprosy." ⁷ When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me."

⁸ But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel." ⁹ So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. ¹⁰ Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean." ¹¹ But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! ¹² Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage. ¹³ But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean?'" ¹⁴ So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

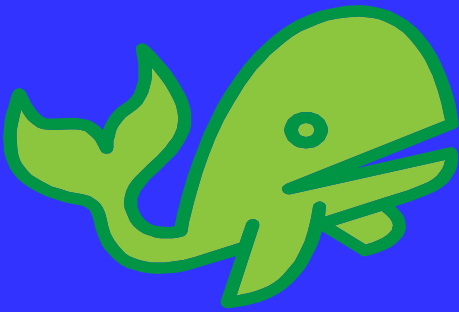
¹⁵ Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company; he came and stood before him and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel; please accept a present from your servant."

AIM



Even though the little girl has every reason to be upset, angry and depressed because she was a slave in a foreign country, away from her family friends and relatives, she helped her master to find healing for his disease. If we trust God and obey Him, we will be able to experience His healing power! When Naaman listened and obeyed the prophet, God healed him of his leprosy.

Teacher's Preparation



You will need a plastic glove, some baby powder, and a bowl with water. Before class begins, put some baby powder into the glove and put the glove on your hand. Try to act embarrassed about your hand and try to keep it hidden. If a child asks you about it, just say, "Oh, it's really nothing." Begin to tell the story of Naaman, keeping your glove on through the story.

Main Ideas

Naaman's leprosy

Long ago, Naaman was a commander in the Syrian army and was a great soldier. But he had leprosy which is a terrible disease that eats away parts of the body. Fortunately, he had a young servant girl who came from Israel, and she said to Naaman's wife, "If my master could only see the prophet in Samaria, he would cure him of his leprosy."

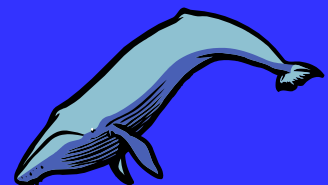
Naaman was filled with hope and rushed to tell the king of Syria all about this prophet who could cure leprosy. Would you be excited if you had a terrible sickness and someone told you that there was someone who could cure you? (*Let the children respond*).

We all get sick at some point in our lives. When we get sick, we go to God in prayer and He is our help and Healer!

Go and get Cured!

The king was also excited because he was very fond of Naaman. So he sent Naaman with gifts and a letter to the king of Israel, asking him to cure Naaman. When the king of Israel received the letter, he got all upset and shouted, "I can't cure leprosy!"

Fortunately, Elisha the prophet heard about Naaman, and sent the king a message: "Let Naaman come to me, and he will know that there's a prophet in Israel!"



Go and Wash!

So Naaman went with his horses, and chariots and servants to Elisha's house. And do you know what? That Elisha didn't even bother to come out! No, he just sent his servant to tell Naaman, "Go and wash yourself seven times in the Jordan."

Naaman was furious! "What go and wash in that muddy river?" Would you wash yourself in a muddy river? (*Let the children respond*). Well, Naaman shouted, "Never! The rivers in my country are much cleaner!" And so, instead of listening to Elisha and doing what he said, he went away in a rage!

Alright! I'll Dip Myself!

Naaman's servants tried to calm him down, and finally, Naaman went down to the Jordan river and dipped himself in the water seven times. Let's pretend we are dipping ourselves in that river.

Ready? One - two -three - four. (*Let the children respond*). Oh, I'm tired! Can't we stop now? No? Alright then, five - six - seven! (*Let the children respond*).

I'm Healed!

And guess what? Naaman began jumping for joy! His servants were now convinced that Naaman was mad, but no, "I'm healed!" he shouted, "All the leprosy has disappeared and I'm as good as new!"

Naaman's servants were excited as they examined his lovely new pink skin. There was no trace of leprosy left! Yes, Naaman was healed and made whole. That soldier from Syria praised our wonderful God and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel. And Naaman went back to Syria a healed and happy man!"

God can Heal Us!

This story shows us that God has the power to heal us from any sickness. If you are sick, all you have to do is pray to God and ask Him to make you better. God hears us and knows our needs even before we ask.

So pray and put your trust in God to heal you, because He loves and cares for you!

Activities

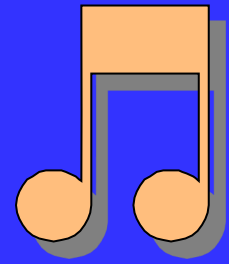
Have the children sing the hymn, "Trust and Obey."

When we walk with the Lord, In the light of His Word
What a glory He sheds on our way;
While we do His good will, He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

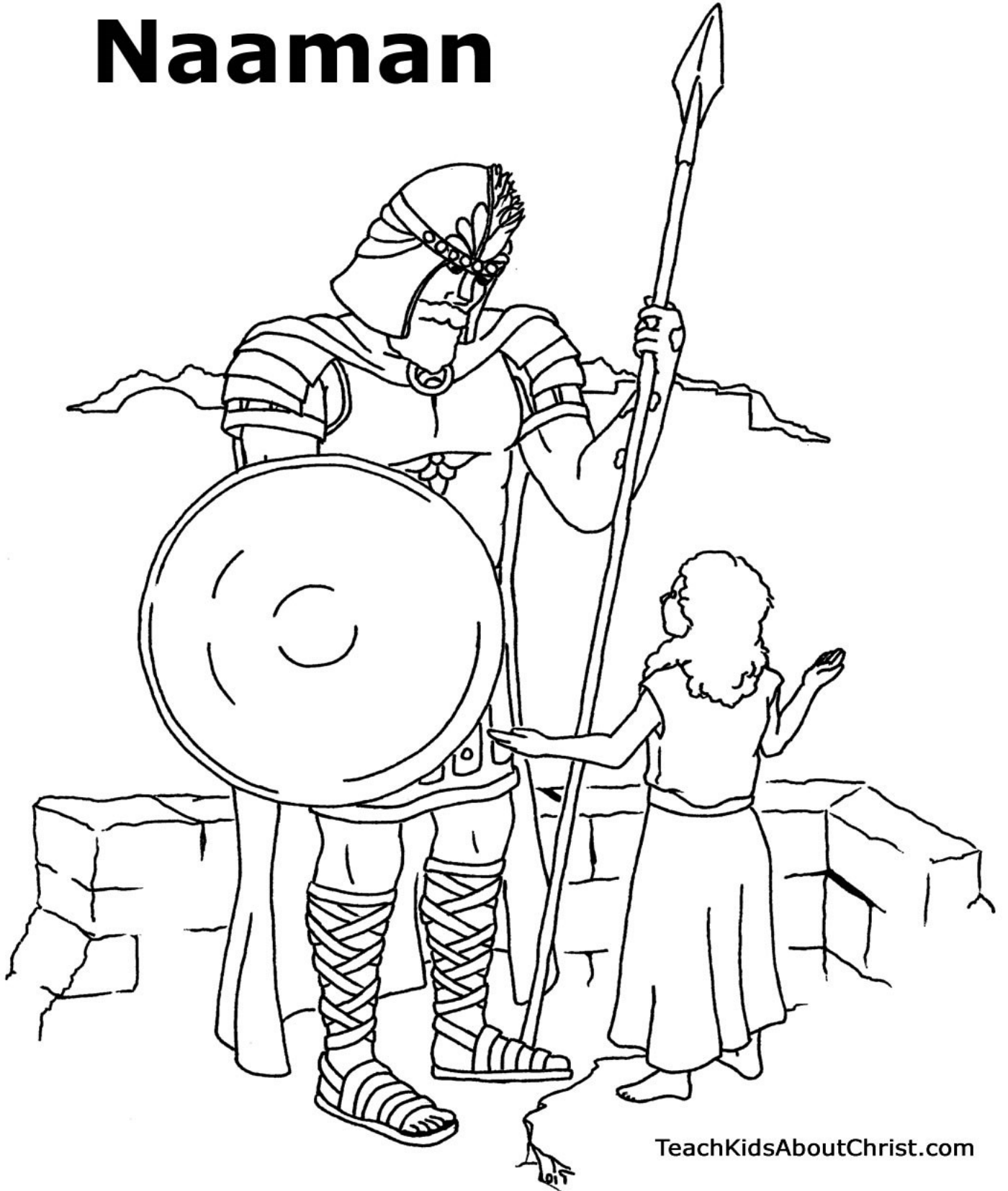
*Trust and obey,
For there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus,
But to trust and obey*

Not a shadow can rise, Not a cloud in the skies,
But His smile quickly drives it away;
Not a doubt or a fear, Not a sigh or a tear,
Can abide while we trust and obey

Coloring Activity



Naaman



Word Search:

CAPTIVE GIRL

V L V H M S K K L J I Z Q G N

CLEAN

G V S K G O C L R E A A Q D A

CURED

B A R T T E N L I A P O L A A

ELISHA

W N N R L I B C G Q R R O Z M

GOD

JORDAN RIVER

I A J I A E U K E E J C O K A

LEPROSY

S D S V K G Y N V N G J W S N

NAAMAN

OBEY

Z H D Z O M J I I S A P F W Y

SEVEN TIMES

A E E R B Z R Z T Y Q E L H D

WASH

A X L H U N C M P M N A L X G

R P Y V A B G X A D E R U C K

D A W D W X M M C I W P D Y P

L Y R S E V E N T I M E S E K

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J I K S G O D I K B I A A O I

H Z N U E T E H T B P J R V R

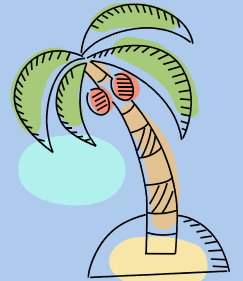
Review Time

Read each sentence below and fill in the blanks with the proper word from the word bank:

Word bank: cured, leprosy, wash, obey, seven, slave, Jordan, Elisha, heal

1. Naaman had a skin disease called _____.
 2. His wife's _____ told him about someone who could _____ him.
 3. The man of God, _____ told Naaman to dip in the _____ River.
 4. Naaman was told to dip, or _____, _____ times in the water.
 5. At first, he did not want to _____.
- When Naaman obeyed Elisha, he was _____ by God.

Teacher answer key: leprosy, slave, heal, Elisha, Jordan, wash, seven, obey, cured



Values for Life

We need to put our trust and faith in God at all times.

My Decision

In order for Naaman to be healed, he had to follow the instructions that the Lord had given to Elisha. Naaman had a choice. He could either obey and receive the healing that God wanted to give him, or he could disobey and miss out on God's blessing. We have the same choice.



Memory Verse

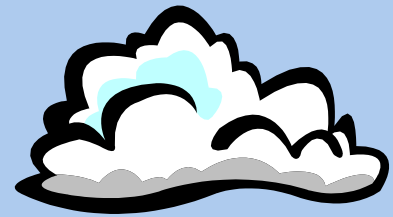
Deuteronomy 31:8

New Revised Standard Version

It is the Lord who goes before you.

He will be with you; he will not fail you or forsake you.

Do not fear or be dismayed.



Closing Prayer

God, our Healer,

Help us to obey You every day. Help us to trust you even if we don't understand all your plans for us. We pray for those who are sick among us and ask that you stretch your healing hand so that we also can experience Your healing power.

In Jesus name, we pray. Amen!