

Naaman and Elisha

2 Kings 5



Why is this man in the river? Is he dirty? Listen to today's story to find out.



The Story

Naaman was a great leader of the army in Syria. He had a bad disease called leprosy.

One day his wife's servant girl said, "Naaman should go to see God's servant in Israel. He would be able to heal him of his leprosy!"

This servant of God was named Elisha. He was a prophet.

Naaman's king thought it was a good idea. He wrote a letter to the king of Israel asking that Naaman might be healed. The king of Israel was worried because he didn't know how to heal anyone.

Elisha said, "Let him come to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel."

Naaman rode in his chariot pulled by his horses. His servants went along with him. He came to Elisha's house but Elisha didn't come out to meet him. Instead he sent a messenger who told Naaman, "My master said you should go wash in the Jordan River seven times. Then you will be healed."

When Naaman heard this he was very angry. He had expected Elisha to come out of his house and heal him in person. Then Naaman said, "I could have washed in the rivers of my own country and become clean!"

He went away angry. Naaman's servants tried to talk to him. They said, "If the prophet had told you to do something very hard, wouldn't you have done it? So now, just try following his simple directions."

Naaman did it. He went to the Jordan River and dipped himself seven times in the water. When he came out, his skin was healed and back to normal. The disease was gone! He went back to Elisha to thank him and give him some gifts. But Elisha would not take the gifts.

As Naaman was leaving to go back to his country, Syria, Elisha's servant, Gehazi, ran after him. Gehazi had a wicked plan to get money from Naaman. He made up a lie and told Naaman that his master had sent him to ask for money and clothing for some young men who needed it. Of course Naaman gladly gave it to him. Gehazi ordered his servants to carry the clothes and money back to Gehazi's tent so Elisha wouldn't see it.

Later Elisha asked Gehazi, "Where did you go?"

Gehazi lied, "I didn't go anywhere."

Elisha knew the truth. He cursed Gehazi and gave him the disease of leprosy.

The Lord, through Elisha healed Naaman of his leprosy.

Activity One

- Color the happy or sad face to show how Naaman felt.



1. Naaman had a disease called leprosy.



2. The servant girl told about a prophet who could heal Naaman.



3. Elisha didn't come out to meet Naaman to heal him in person.



4. Through Elisha, God healed Naaman.

God, through Jesus Christ, has taken away our sins.

Passages

Psalms 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

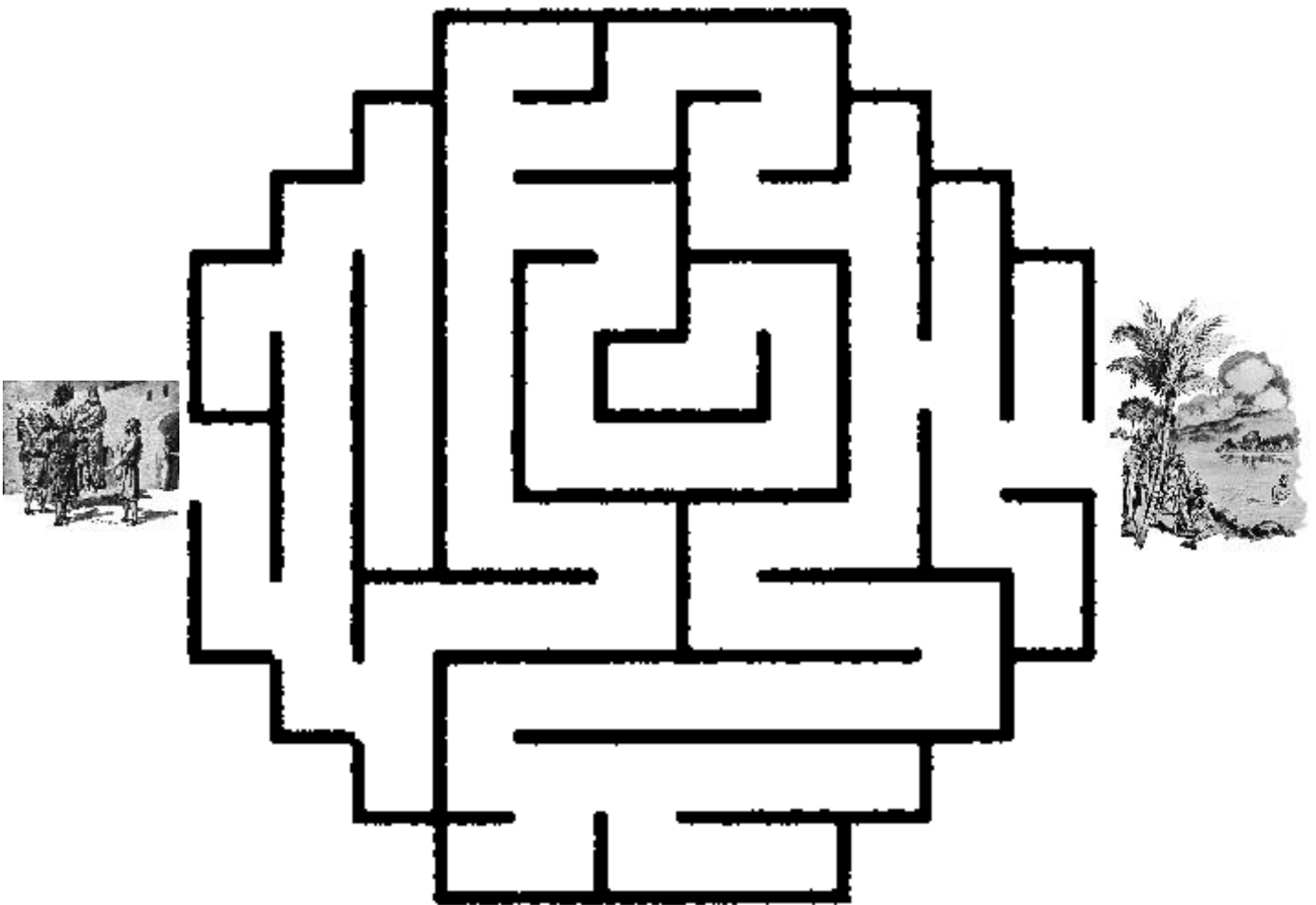
1 John 1:7 - The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Hymn

- TLH #297 v. 1

The Gospel shows the Father's grace,
Who sent His Son to save our race,
Proclaims how Jesus lived and died
That man might thus be justified.

Activity Two - Help Naaman find his way back to Syria.



Prayer

Dear Jesus, sometimes we don't believe in Your Word like we should. Sometimes we are like Naaman who didn't know that the simplest thing to do was just trust in Your Word. Please give us a stronger faith. Help us always to follow You until we see You at last in heaven. Amen.

Naaman and Elisha

2 Kings 5



What is this man doing? Let's read and find out from our story how he followed some very simple directions to solve his big problem.



The Story

There was a man named Naaman who was a commander of the army in the country of Syria. He was a great leader, but he had a terrible disease called leprosy.

Naaman's wife had a young servant girl who heard about Naaman's disease. She had been taken a prisoner from Israel. The girl told her mistress, "If only my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria! For he would heal him of his leprosy." The prophet's name was Elisha.

Naaman went to the king of Syria and told him what the little girl had said. The king sent a letter to the king of Israel, along with many gifts, asking him to heal Naaman's leprosy. The king of Israel was upset because he knew he couldn't heal anyone. When Elisha the prophet found out, he told the king to send Naaman to him.

Naaman went with his horses and chariot and stood at the door of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to Naaman saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan River seven times and you will be healed."

When Naaman heard this, he was very angry. He expected Elisha to come outside and heal him. He also said, "Aren't the rivers in my country better than all the waters of Israel? I could have washed in them and become clean." Then he went away in a rage.

Naaman's servants went after him and asked, "If the prophet had told you to do something very difficult, wouldn't you have done it? Then why not try doing this very simple thing?"

So Naaman went down and dipped

seven times in the Jordan River as Elisha had told him. His skin looked clean and the disease was gone. Naaman went back to Elisha and said, "Indeed, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, except in Israel; now please accept a gift."

But Elisha would not accept a gift. Naaman asked for some soil to take with him, perhaps to show that nothing in his own country was as good as Israel's, not even the soil. Naaman also asked Elisha to pardon him whenever he needed to assist his master in the temples of false gods. As a new believer in the true God, Naaman did not want to have it on his conscience.

Elisha said, "Go in peace."

After Naaman had gone a short distance, Elisha's servant, Gehazi, thought up a wicked plan. He knew that Elisha had refused the gifts, so in his greed, he wanted to get them. Gehazi ran after Naaman and told a lie. He said that his master had sent him because two young men of the sons of the prophets needed money and clothing. Naaman gladly gave Gehazi the things, even more than he had asked. Gehazi made his servants carry the goods to his house, then he sent them away.

When Gehazi went before his master, Elisha asked, "Where did you go, Gehazi?"

Once again Gehazi lied saying, "Your servant did not go anywhere."

But Elisha knew the truth. Because of Gehazi's greed and lies, Elisha cursed him and his descendants with leprosy. Gehazi left with skin as white as snow.

The Lord through Elisha healed Naaman of his leprosy.

Activity One - Complete the CROSSWORD PUZZLE using the words in the Word Box.

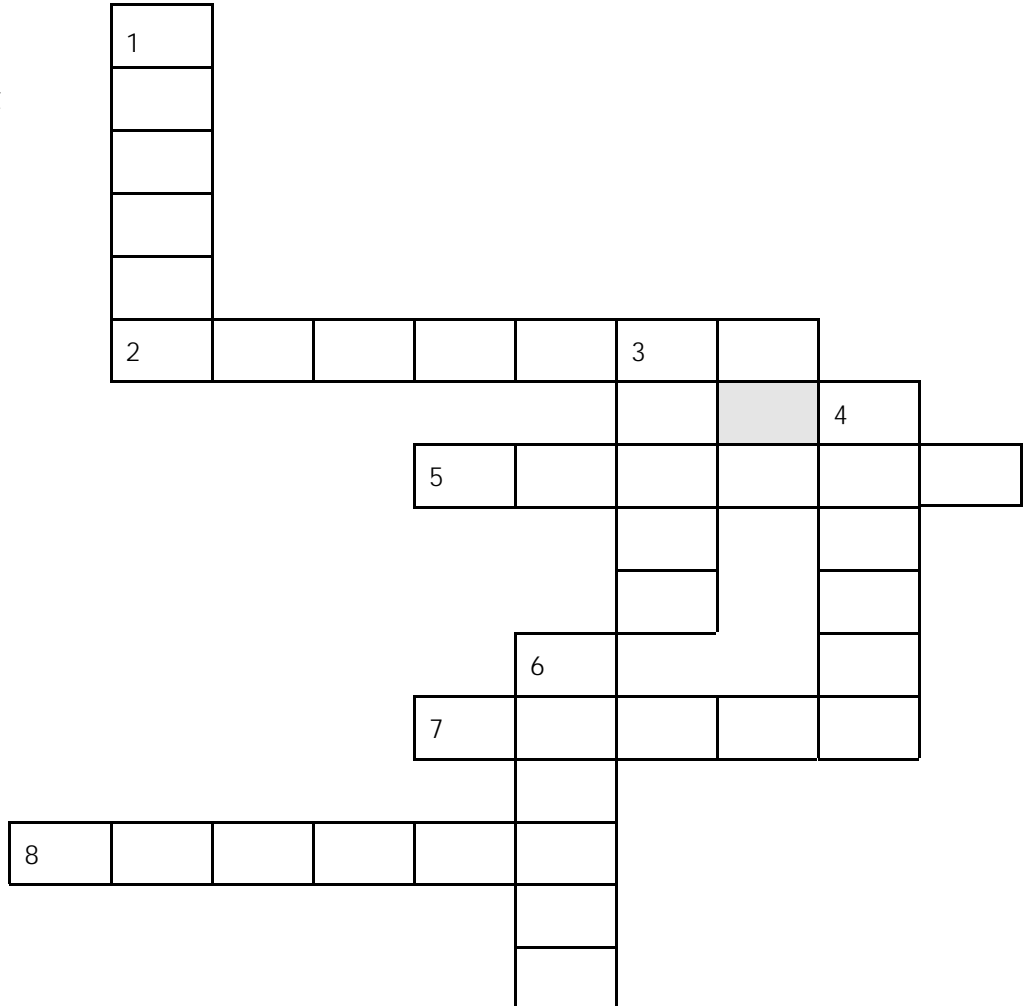
SEVEN NAAMAN ISRAEL ELISHA JORDAN GEHAZI SYRIA LEPROSY

ACROSS

2. The terrible disease that Naaman had.
5. The river in which Naaman was to wash.
7. The number of times Naaman had to wash.
8. The prophet of God.

DOWN

1. The country the servant girl was from.
3. The country Naaman was from.
4. The man with leprosy.
6. The man who was greedy.



Activity Two - Answer the following questions.

1. What was Naaman's big problem?
2. What was the "simple" way to cure it?
3. After Naaman heard about the cure, he was very angry. Why?

4. Who supplied the real cure for Naaman's problem?
5. What did Gehazi want?
6. What were the two lies Gehazi told?
 - a.
 - b.
7. What happened to Gehazi because of his greed and lies?

God, through Jesus Christ, has taken away our sins.

Passages

Psalms 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet
And a light to my path.

1 John 1:7 - The blood of Jesus Christ His
Son cleanses us from all sin.

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world
that He gave His only begotten Son, that
whoever believes in Him should not perish
but have everlasting life.

Hymn - TLH #297 v. 1, 2

The Gospel shows the Father's grace,
Who sent His Son to save our race,
Proclaims how Jesus lived and died
That man might thus be justified.

It sets the Lamb before our eyes,
Who made the atoning sacrifice,
And calls the souls with guilt opprest
To come and find eternal rest.

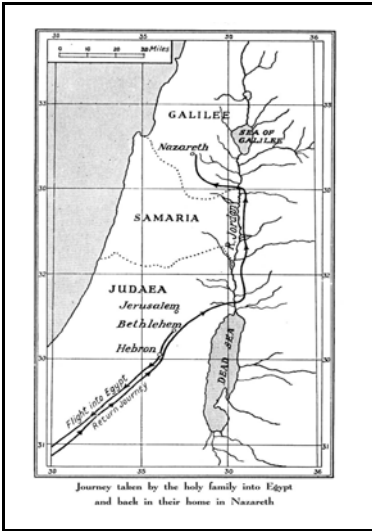
Prayer

Dear Savior Jesus Christ,

We thank You for allowing us to be here today to learn about Your precious Word. Teach us to cherish this Word and never to despise it because it is "too simple"! Make us brave to speak up and tell others about our faith as the little servant girl did. We ask this in Your saving name. Amen.

Naaman and Elisha

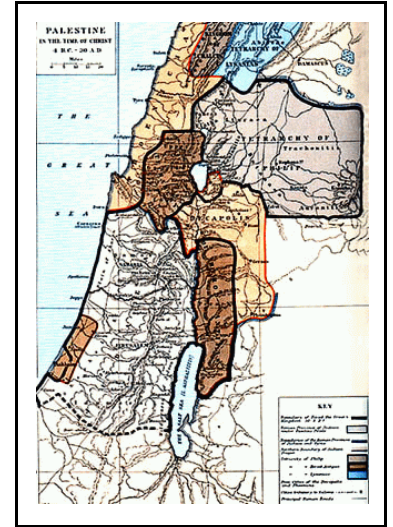
2 Kings 5



Which map would be more easily read to give an idea of the land of Israel? Sometimes the simplest solution is the best solution.

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, You have given us the blessing of Your Word. Help us to listen and concentrate today on its message as we learn more about trusting in Your power. Amen.



The Story - summaries and excerpts

At the time of Elisha the prophet in Israel, there was a great commander of the Syrian army named Naaman. He was a mighty man of valor, but was also a leper.

After one of the raids, a young Israelite girl was taken captive as a slave, which was a common practice. This young girl, handmaiden to Naaman's wife, suggested that he go to see Elisha, who she believed would heal him of his leprosy.

The king of Syria (Ben-Hadad II) wrote a letter to Jehoram, the king of Israel, asking for the act of healing for Naaman. Jehoram tore his clothes in frustration, apparently thinking it was up to him to do the healing; the prophet Elisha heard about this and told him to send Naaman to him.

The story continues:

{9} Then Naaman went with his horses and chariot, and he stood at the door of Elisha's house. {10} And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean."

{11} But Naaman became furious, and went away and said, "Indeed, I said to myself, 'He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy.' {12} "Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage.

{13} And his servants came near and spoke to him, and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do something great, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?"

{14} So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean. {15} And he returned to the man of God, he and all his aides, and came and stood before him; and he said, "Indeed, now I know that there is no God in all the earth,



except in Israel; now therefore, please take a gift from your servant."

{16} But he said, "As the LORD lives, before whom I stand, I will receive nothing." And he urged him to take it, but he refused.

{17} So Naaman said, "Then, if not, please let your servant be given two mule-loads of earth; for your servant will no longer offer either burnt offering or sacrifice to other gods, but to the LORD. {18} "Yet in this thing may the LORD pardon your servant: when my master goes into the temple of Rimmon to worship there, and he leans on my hand, and I bow down in the temple of Rimmon; when I bow down in the temple of Rimmon, may the LORD please pardon your servant in this thing."

{19} Then he said to him, "Go in peace." So he departed from him a short distance.

The servant of Elisha was named

Gehazi. After Naaman refused a gift in return for healing him of the leprosy, Gehazi had an idea. He ran after Naaman and told a lie, saying that Elisha had sent him because two young men were in need of money and clothing.

Naaman gladly gave him more than he asked for: two talents of silver and two changes of garments. Gehazi gave these things to his servants, who carried them for him so Elisha wouldn't notice them. Then Gehazi hid them in his house and dismissed the servants.

When Elisha asked him, "Where did you go, Gehazi?" He said he had not gone anywhere. But Elisha knew the truth. Therefore, he cursed Gehazi and his descendants with the very leprosy of which Naaman had so recently been cured.

What the Story Tells Us - Answer the following questions.

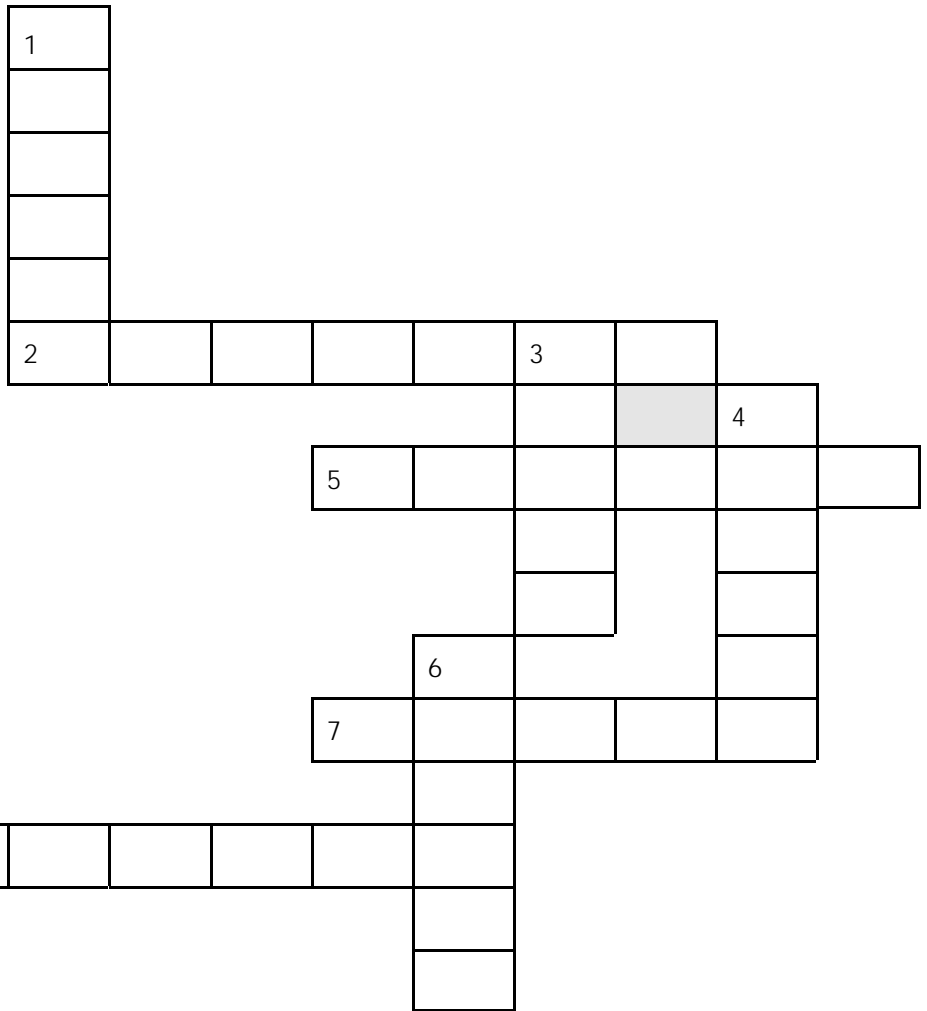
1. How did the servant girl confess her faith?
2. Why did Naaman become "furious" when he heard the instructions to cure his leprosy? (two reasons)
 - a.
 - b.
3. What was Naaman worried about after he was cured?
4. What motivated Gehazi to run after Naaman?

Outer Aim - The Lord through Elisha healed Naaman of his leprosy.

Your Turn - Complete the CROSSWORD PUZZLE.

ACROSS

- 2. A terrible disease
- 5. The river in which Naaman was to wash.
- 7. The number of times Naaman had to wash.
- 8. The prophet of God.



DOWN

- 1. The country the servant girl was from.
- 3. The country Naaman was from.
- 4. The man with leprosy.
- 6. The man who was greedy.

Inner Aim - God, through Jesus Christ, has taken away our sins.

What God's Word Tells Us - Look up the following Bible passages. Fill in the missing words and discuss their meaning.

1 Corinthians 1:25 Because the _____ of God is wiser than _____, and the _____ of God is _____ than men.

John 20:31 But these are written that you may _____ that Jesus is the _____, the Son of God, and that _____ you may have _____ in His name.

Passages

2 Timothy 3:15 - and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Psalms 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

1 John 1:7 - The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Hymn - TLH #294 v. 1, 2

O Word of God Incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky ---
We praise Thee for the radiance that from the hallowed page,
A lantern to our foot-steps, shines on from age to age.

The Church from her dear Master received the gift divine,
And still that light she lifteth o'er all the earth to shine.
It is the golden casket where gems of truth are stored;
It is the heav'n-drawn picture of Christ, the living Word.

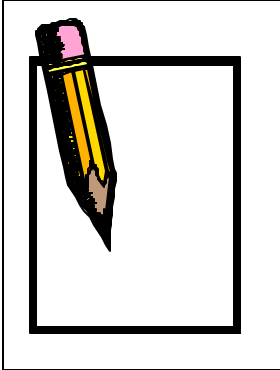
Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven,

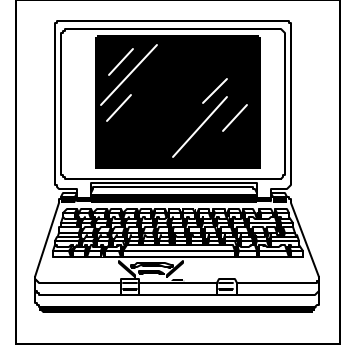
Thank You for giving us Your Son, Jesus Christ, to take away all our sins. Because of what He has done, we can be sure of our place in Heaven with You. Let us never think of the Gospel as "too simple" or foolish for us. It is Your holy Word that leads us to You through the power of Your Holy Spirit! Keep us strong in the faith and help us love You more and more each day. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Naaman and Elisha

2 Kings 5



If you had an extremely difficult math problem to solve, which of these tools would you use? Why? In today's story we will see that sometimes the simplest solution is the best solution.



Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven, Thank You for allowing us to gather in Your name today. Bless our study as we learn more about the great power of Your word. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

The Story - summaries and excerpts

Now Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great and honorable man in the eyes of his master, because by him the LORD had given victory to Syria. He was also a mighty man of valor, but a leper.

{2} And the Syrians had gone out on raids, and had brought back captive a young girl from the land of Israel. She waited on Naaman's wife. {3} Then she said to her mistress, "If only my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria! For he would heal him of his leprosy."

{4} And Naaman went in and told his master, saying, "Thus and thus said the girl who is from the land of Israel."

{5} Then the king of Syria said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of

Israel." So he departed and took with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothing. {6}

Then he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which said, Now be advised, when this letter comes to you, that I have sent Naaman my servant to you, that you may heal him of his leprosy.

{7} And it happened, when the king of Israel read the letter, that he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and make alive, that this man sends a man to me to heal him of his leprosy? Therefore please consider, and see how he seeks a quarrel with me."

{8} So it was, when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying,



"Why have you torn your clothes? Please let him come to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel."

{9} Then Naaman went with his horses and chariot, and he stood at the door of Elisha's house. {10} And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean."

{11} But Naaman became furious, and went away and said, "Indeed, I said to myself, 'He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy.' {12} "Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage.

{13} And his servants came near and spoke to him, and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do something great, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean?'"

{14} So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean. {15} And he returned to the man of God, he and all his aides, and came and stood before him; and he said, "Indeed, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, except in Israel; now therefore, please take a gift from your servant."

{16} But he said, "As the LORD lives, before whom I stand, I will receive

nothing." And he urged him to take it, but he refused. {17} So Naaman said, "Then, if not, please let your servant be given two mule-loads of earth; for your servant will no longer offer either burnt offering or sacrifice to other gods, but to the LORD. {18} "Yet in this thing may the LORD pardon your servant: when my master goes into the temple of Rimmon to worship there, and he leans on my hand, and I bow down in the temple of Rimmon; when I bow down in the temple of Rimmon, may the LORD please pardon your servant in this thing."

{19} Then he said to him, "Go in peace." So he departed from him a short distance.

Elisha had a servant named Gehazi. After Elisha refused a gift for healing Naaman of the leprosy, Gehazi had an idea. He ran after Naaman and told a lie, saying that Elisha had sent him because two young men were in need of money and clothing (Gehazi was really just being greedy and wanted the goods for himself). Naaman gladly gave him more than he asked for: two talents of silver and two changes of garments. Gehazi gave these things to his servants, who carried them for him so Elisha wouldn't notice them. Then Gehazi hid them in his house and dismissed the servants.

When Elisha asked him, "Where did you go, Gehazi?" he said he had not gone anywhere. But Elisha knew the truth. Therefore, he cursed Gehazi and his descendants with the very leprosy of which Naaman had so recently been cured.

Outer Aim - The Lord through Elisha healed Naaman of his leprosy.

What the Story Tells Us - Answer the following questions.

1. How did the Israelite servant girl demonstrate her faith?
2. How did the king of Israel demonstrate his “lack” of faith?
3. God through Elisha told Naaman to wash seven times in the Jordan River, a simple solution for his problem. Can you think of a “simple” solution to our sin that also involves water? Explain.
4. What difficulty did Naaman foresee would happen after his leprosy was cured? Can you think of a problem that might arise in your life because you are a Christian?
5. Our conscience is a gift from God that warns us when we sin or are being tempted to do so. Explain how one lie led to another for Gehazi.

Inner Aim - God, through Jesus Christ, has taken away our sins.

What God’s Word Tells Us - Look up and copy the following Bible passages. Then explain how they are related to our story.

1 Corinthians 1:16

Passages

2 Timothy 3:15 - and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Psalms 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

1 John 1:7 - The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Hymn - Fill in the blanks from TLH #264 v. 3-4. Then sing it together.

Preserve O Lord, thy _____, Thine own blest heritage;
_____, disperse, and scatter those who against Thee _____.
Let Thy _____ guide us, grant us Thy heavenly food;
Clothe us in Thy rich _____, bought with Thy _____ blood.

Preserve Thy Word and _____, the truth that makes us whole,
The _____ of Thy glory, the _____ that saves the soul.
Oh, may this living water, this dew of _____ grace,
_____ us while here living until we see Thy _____.

Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven, Thank You for giving us Your Son, Jesus Christ, to take away all our sins. Because of what He has done, we can be sure of our place in Heaven with You. Let us never think of the Gospel as "too simple" or foolish for us. It is Your Holy Word that leads us to You through the power of Your Holy Spirit! Keep us strong in the faith and help us love You more and more each day. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.