

God Heals Naaman's Leprosy

2 Kings 5:1-16

Bible message: God Wants Us To Follow Him

In 2 Kings 5:1-16, the Bible tells us that God wants us to follow him. This passage tells us about a man named Naaman who was a great leader of many soldiers. Naaman was a great leader, but he was very proud. Naaman always wanted to be first in everything. God wants to be our leader. God wants us to remember that he's the great one, not us. Well, even though Naaman was a great leader, he had two problems. First he didn't know God; and second, he was sick with a disease called leprosy. Leprosy is a disease that causes sores all over a person's skin.

Naaman's wife had a young servant girl who loved God. When the girl heard that Naaman was sick, she told Naaman's wife about the prophet Elisha who could cure Naaman. So Naaman went to Israel hoping that he would be healed. Proud Naaman traveled to Israel with his horses and chariots to display his wealth. Chariots are like fancy wagons. Naaman thought he could use his great riches to buy healing for his body. God wants our hearts to be focused on him and thankful, not proud. Naaman was proud that he had beautiful horses and chariots and lots of money. Finally, Naaman arrived at Elisha's house.

Finally, Naaman arrived at Elisha's house. But Elisha didn't come to the door. He sent a messenger to tell Naaman to wash himself seven times in the Jordan River to be healed. Naaman couldn't believe that Elisha hadn't come to the door himself to give him that message! He thought that Elisha would come out to see such an important man as Naaman! Well, that made Naaman mad. "How dare Elisha not come out of his house to greet me!" he thought. "What a joke! And now he wants me to go wash seven times in that nasty water? No way!"

Sometimes following God means being willing to do things that we might not fully understand. Naaman's servants came to Naaman and told him they thought that if Elisha had asked him to do something impressive, Naaman would've done it. So why wouldn't Naaman try a simple thing like washing in the Jordan River? Naaman decided to follow God, and he washed seven times in the muddy water.

When Naaman followed God, he got better! The leprosy was gone! Naaman realized that he shouldn't have been so proud and that he should have followed God. Naaman thought, "God is greater than I am!" Naaman went back to Elisha and told him that he believed in God.

God wants us to know how important he is, and not act like we're the most important ones. God is greater than everyone. God wants us to follow him.

Hide and Find Game:

Let's play a game that will help us remember that God wants us to follow him and his directions!

First choose an object to hide and a room to hide it in. Then have one person be the Seeker. Have the Seeker stand in a corner with his or her eyes closed. While their eyes are closed, quietly have someone else hide an object somewhere in that room. Everyone, except the Seeker, will get to see where it's hidden! Then have the Seeker turn around and try to find the object. Then give the Seeker simple directions, such as "Walk," "Turn," and "Stop," to help him or her find the item. Once the Seeker finds the object, choose a new Seeker.

After playing the game ask yourselves:

How did the directions help you?

How was having someone help you like having God help you?

Why do you think it's important to follow God's directions?

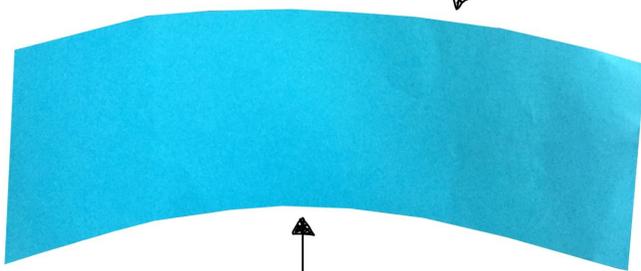
Naamen Cup Craft:

Supplies: a cup, scissors, popsicle stick, blue paper or blue marker, tape, print of Naamen: sick and healed (see below).

Print out the picture of Naamen or make our own. Color both Naamen's and cut them out. Pierce a hole in the bottom of your cup to fit the popsicle stick through.



Once you have cut out this shape, cut a wavy line along this edge



Shape of the cup sleeve

Cut out the blue paper in the shape of a cup sleeve (see picture). Then cut a wavy line on the top of your cup sleeve to look like water. Wrap the blue paper around your cup and tape it closed. **Or** color on your cup with a blue marker to look like water.

Glue the Naaman characters back to back on the popsicle stick. Put the popsicle stick in the cup and have Naamen move up and down in the cup. Have him "wash" seven times and then turn him to the healed side.

Drawings for Naaman Cup Craft

