



LESSON 3 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Does What No One Else Can

SCRIPTURE: [2 Kings 5](#)

WORD OF WONDER: [From Joshua 1:9](#)

When you see it from his perspective, Naaman's indignation in [2 Kings 5](#) seems understandable.

Naaman, the Aramean general who was suffering from a skin disease, had traveled a long way to be cured by the prophet Elisha. Arriving at Elisha's house with great pomp and circumstance, Naaman was insulted by the reception he received. Not only was Elisha not there, but the prophet had given, through his servant, a message for Naaman that sounded absurd: "Wash yourself in the Jordan River seven times. Then your skin will be healed" ([2 Kings 5:10](#)).

What?! If a muddy river bath was the answer, why couldn't Naaman have taken a dip in one much closer to home? Nevertheless, Naaman followed Elisha's instructions and experienced a miraculous healing.

It seems like this strange cleansing ritual was God's way of stripping away Naaman's preconceptions and expectations and bringing him to a place of earnest and genuine faith. It worked. Once healed, Naaman declared, "Now I know that there is no God anywhere in the whole world except in Israel" ([2 Kings 5:15](#)).

What is God stripping away in your life right now? Has He put you in a place that, at first glance, doesn't seem to make sense? Perhaps He is trying to focus your attention exclusively on Him and deepen your faith.

God's ways are often mysterious, and He rarely works according to your timetable. But His love for you is real, and His power is great. He can do what no one else can.

—**Josh Cooley**

Children's Minister and Author

Contributor to Wonder Ink

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ELISHA AND NAAMAN

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Naaman was the commander of the army of Aram. He had a skin disease—perhaps leprosy—that made him unclean in the eyes of the Israelites. Elisha was the God-appointed successor to the prophet Elijah after Elijah was taken up to heaven.

WHAT?

Naaman traveled to Samaria after his wife's servant, a young girl from Israel, told her of a prophet who could heal him. After following Elisha's instructions to wash in the Jordan River, God healed Naaman even though he was not an Israelite. Then Naaman believed in God alone.

WHERE?

Aram was a kingdom centered around Damascus, northeast of the Kingdom of Israel. It was in territory Israel had lost since the days of King David and King Solomon. Naaman traveled from Aram to Samaria, which was the capital of Israel at the time.

WHEN?

Most of 1 and 2 Kings occur during the divided monarchy. Israel split in two kingdoms shortly after the death of King Solomon. The northern kingdom was Israel. The southern kingdom was Judah. This was a time of great idolatry, though God reserved a faithful remnant of people.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

God's healing of Naaman, an outsider to Israel, demonstrated that Israel's God is the God of all peoples. God made the way for Naaman to know Him, just as Jesus made the way for people from every tribe, tongue, and nation to be part of God's kingdom.



Curiosity

LESSON 3 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

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Play Stations

SUPPLIES: small paper plate, permanent marker, adhesive bandages

Before kids arrive, use a permanent marker to draw a simple face on a paper plate. Open bandages and peel the backs off.

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

Welcome! I'm so glad you're here! Today we're going to learn about a man who had a skin disease, and we'll find out how he got rid of it! Let's pretend this is a person with a sickness all over his body and face. He needs your help! Can you help him by putting bandages on him? Help kids put bandages all over the plate.



9:00 Service

Belief

LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Guide kids into knowing God more deeply, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

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Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, thank You that You're victorious! We can't wait to hear Your Word today and learn about Your power. We invite Your Holy Spirit to help us hear from You and show us that, with You, we can have victory. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible

Ask: What is this called? The Bible

Ask: Why is the Bible important? Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.

Tell the Bible Story

The Beginner's Bible, pages 230-234

Naaman is Healed

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

**Be strong and brave. Do not be afraid. God
will be with you wherever you go.**

—from Joshua 1:9

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **BE STRONG AND BRAVE.**—*Flex both arms.*
- **DO NOT BE AFRAID.**—*Shake head.*
- **GOD WILL BE WITH YOU**—*Point up.*
- **WHEREVER YOU GO.**—*Walk in place.*
- **FROM JOSHUA 1:9**—*Hold your hands together in front, palms together, as if opening a book.*

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **What's the most amazing thing you've seen or heard of God doing? How has God helped you when you were afraid of something?**



Identity

LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Create space for God to remind kids they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.

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Activity: Jump in the River

SUPPLIES: blue disposable tablecloth or fabric (from God's Big Story)

Spread out the disposable blue tablecloth so it looks like a river in the middle of the floor.

We're going to pretend to get in a river like Naaman did! Naaman may not have jumped, but let's pretend we're jumping in the river! Jump with me! If kids can't jump, they can run "through" or over it instead. For older kids, have them count with you as you jump in the river seven times the way Naaman did. **When Naaman got in the water after the seventh time, he was amazed to see how God had healed him. God helped not only his skin, but also his heart. God still does amazing things! God does what no one else can!**

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for doing what only He can do.

God, thank You for doing what only You can do in our lives! Help us live for You every day as You guide us with Your Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: As we go today, may God remind you that He loves you, He sees you, and He does what

9:00 Service

no one else can do for you. Worship Him with all your heart, soul, and strength!