



## 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

LESSON 3 FOR LEADERS

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.*

#### LESSON AT A GLANCE

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## Play Stations

**SUPPLIES:** washable markers, wet wipes (1 pack), coloring utensils

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** [Naaman Picture](#) (2–4 copies), [Elisha and Naaman Coloring Sheet](#) (1 per kid)

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

**Welcome to church!** While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning about today?

#### Play Station: Wipe Him Clean

**Set-up:** Make two to four copies of the [Naaman Picture](#) and laminate them. Use washable markers to draw spots all over the Naaman figure. Set out wipes.

**Play:** Encourage kids to use the wipes to clean the spots off Naaman. Once they're done, they can draw new "spots" on him for the next kids to have a turn.



#### Play Station: Elisha and Naaman Coloring Sheet

**Set-up:** Print one copy per kid of the [Coloring Sheet](#). Set out the [Coloring Sheets](#) and coloring utensils.

**Play:** Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a special talent they have or something that makes them unique.



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

## 9:00 Service

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**What is the name of the army commander?** *(Naaman)*

**What big problem did Naaman have?** *(He had a skin disease.)*

**What is the name of God's prophet (or messenger) in God's big story?** *(Elisha)*

**What did Elisha's messenger tell Naaman to do in order to be healed?** *(wash himself in the Jordan River seven times)*

**What happened to Naaman as soon as he did what Elisha had said?** *(God healed him of his skin disease.)*

**What did Naaman do after he was healed?** *(built an altar, worshiped God)*

**What did God do for Naaman that no one else could do?**  
*(healed him)*

**How can you worship God today for being so amazing?**

### 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?**



## Faith

### LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

*Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.*

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#### Craft: Color-Changing Hearts

**SUPPLIES:** white cardstock circles (2 per kid), scissors (prep only), brass brad fasteners (1 per kid), coloring utensils

As you begin, give each kid a brass brad fastener and two circles—one with the heart cut out and one intact circle. Set out coloring utensils.

We're going to make hearts that change colors to remind us of how God changed and healed Naaman's heart when He healed his body. God can heal our hearts too! We all sin, which means we do wrong things. God can heal our hearts and forgive our sins!

You should each have two circles. You're going to color the one that does not have a heart cut out. You can do any design or color you want—the more colors, the better! When you're done, put the plate with the heart on top of the whole plate and poke the fastener through the middle of both plates. Assist the kids as needed.

When you're finished, you can spin the heart and watch it change colors! Take it with you and when you spin it, remember how God can do what no one else can—like heal people and change our hearts.





9:00 Service

## 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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#### Closing Game: Stop and Go

Have kids line up shoulder to shoulder at one end of the room. You will stand at the other end of the room.

**In the story we heard today, Naaman found it hard to follow directions at first. He didn't want to do what Elisha told him right away. He wanted to go, but I'm glad he decided to stop and go to the river, listening to Elisha so God could heal him!**

**Who's played Red Light, Green Light? Pause to allow kids to raise their hands. This game is similar. I'm going to say either "Stop" or "Go," and if you do what I say. But I'm going to be turned around so I can't see you until I say, "Stop." When I say, "Stop," I'll turn around, and any person still moving will go back to the starting line. The first person to get to me wins! Everyone ready?**

Turn around, with your back to the kids. When you say "Stop," turn to and face the kids, looking to see if anyone is moving. If you do see kids still moving, they have to go back to the beginning. If they're trying to stop, you don't have to send them back—only send them back if they're still running.

#### 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!**