



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.

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Curiosity Activity: Disappearing Coin

SUPPLIES: clear drinking glass, colored paper (2 sheets of the same color), writing utensil, scissors, glue stick (prep only), coin

Before kids arrive, place the open part of the glass on a piece of paper and trace around it, then cut out the circle you traced. Then run the glue stick around the rim of the glass and put the cut-out circle onto it edge of the paper circle and glue it to the opening of the glass so that the paper completely covers the opening of the glass.



Before kids arrive, set up the experiment on a table or the floor where everyone can see. Put the second sheet of colored paper on the table with the coin on it and the glass beside it upside down. When kids arrive, have them gather around the table or floor.

Welcome! I'm glad you're here! Who likes optical illusions? Pause for kids to raise their hands. **Me too! Who thinks I can make this coin disappear?** Allow kids to respond. **Though I'm not a professional magician, I think I can do it. Watch closely! Does everyone see this coin? What do you think will happen when I put this clear glass over top of it?** Pause for kids to respond. **Those are all good ideas! Watch closely now.** Carefully pick the glass up, keeping the open part down, and place it on top of the coin. The kids should not be able to see that there's a paper circle secured to the opening of the glass.



10:45 Service



The coin is gone! Pretty amazing, right? Does anyone want to see it again? I can make the coin reappear by moving the glass. Demonstrate by moving the glass off and back on the coin to make it reappear and then disappear again, being careful to not show the open end of the glass to the kids.

That was a pretty cool trick. The story we're going to hear today has something that disappears too—but it isn't a trick. It really happened! Other people may not have been able to make the coin disappear, but I did it in a special way so it looks like it's disappearing. Today we're going to hear about what God made actually disappear, and we'll learn how He can do things that no one else can!





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

10:45 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, worshipped 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?



10:45 Service

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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Game: Sticky Note Relay

SUPPLIES: colored dot stickers (1 per kid)

Do you remember what God did for Naaman? Allow answers. Yes, He took away Naaman's skin disease. God can do what no one else can! In this game, we'll press sticky notes onto one person and then race to take them away!

Divide your group into two teams. Choose a leader for each team (this individual can be an adult or kid). Give each kid a sticky note. Direct the teams to stand at one end of the room and the chosen leaders to stand at the other end.

When I say, "Go," each team is going to take turns running down to their team's chosen leader and putting a sticky note onto them. Then you will run back and tag the next person to go. The first team to get all their sticky notes stuck to their leader wins! Have kids make a line. Then signal by saying "go!" to begin the race. The first team to have all their sticky notes stuck to their chosen leader wins. If a sticky note falls off, it can be replaced by the leader.

Great job, everyone! Now we're going to race again to see which team can take all their sticky notes off their leader first. Have teams line up again. Signal the start of the second round by saying "go!" The first team to take all the sticky notes off of their chosen leader and race back to the starting point wins.

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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Responding in Worship: Washed in Water

SUPPLIES: large bowl, water, paper towels

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: songs from the Early Childhood playlist

Before kids arrive, fill a bowl with water. Set the container of water on a table. Play songs from the Early Childhood playlist while kids are participating in the activity.

We're going to take turns coming up to the water, one at a time. When you come up, you can talk to God about something you want to tell God. Maybe you feel sad about something, or you want to thank Him for something special He did for you or your family. God is able to do what no one else can! He can help you—and we can worship Him for all the amazing ways He works in our world and in our families. You can put your hands in the water and think about how God forgives us and cleans our hearts.

Have kids to wait in a line and come up to the water one at a time. Don't rush through this time. Encourage kids to think and pray silently as they participate. Give them a paper towel to dry their hands when they're done.

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