

I. Desperate - 2 Kings 5:1-6

1. Introduction to Naaman (**verse 1**)
 - A. Great man
 - B. Highly regarded
 - C. Victory over Aram
 - D. Valiant soldier
 - E. Leprosy
 2. Introduction to the “young girl” (**verse 2**)
 - A. She speaks to her mistress
 - B. If only he could see the “prophet” (Elisha) (verse 3)
- Rea -note that this lesson moves us from “Elijah” to “Elisha”
3. Naaman tells his master what the young girl had said (**verse 4**)
 4. His master - you go and I will send a message to the king of Israel (**verse 5**)
 - verse 6** describes the letter
 5. Naaman takes a “gift” as well
 - ten talents of silver
 - six thousand shekels of gold
 - ten sets of clothing
 6. God uses these relationships to bring about the healing of Naaman
- Rea -the real hero is the young servant girl
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. Not clear if the “gift” came from Naaman or the king
 - is the “gift” a bribe?
 2. Though he was a powerful person all was for naught because of “leprosy” - the irony
- in this is thick but oh so true to life
3. This lesson helps us to discuss how God heals and when/ why

II. Directed - 2 Kings 5:7-10

1. The king tore his robes (**verse 7**)
 - I’m not God to make people well
- Rea -by including this in the story the writer identifies God as the ONLY one who does these things - not even Elisha deserves the credit
- he must be trying to pick a fight with me
2. Elisha sends for Naaman (through the king) (**verse 8**)
 - he will know there is a prophet in Israel
 3. Naaman and all his retinue go to the house of Elisha (**verse 9**)
 - big man turns to a “little” prophet for help
 4. The prophet sends a messenger to Naaman - go and wash seven times in the Jordan (**verse 10**)
 5. Believers see the challenges of life help us find the Lord
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. Contrast and compare the “big” persons and the “little” persons - for example the little maid got this ball rolling

- he was required to do a little thing - wash and you'll be cured
- 2. Discuss the position this request put the king of Israel in
- 3. Leprosy is a leveler of peoples - sickness has a way of bringing us to our knees

III. Disappointed - 2 Kings 5:11-12

- 1. Naaman got angry (**verse 11**)
 - tells us his thinking about healing - I thought he'd come and lay his hand on me and call on the Lord
- Rea -discuss where people get their ideas about 1) how God works and 2) how healings from God take place
- 2. There are other rivers that are more suited to this (**verse 12**)
 - they are better than the muddy Jordan
- 3. He leaves in a "rage"
- 4. Pride often stands in the way of God doing big things in our lives
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
 - 1. Twice in these two verses it says that Naaman got angry
 - so his pride led to his anger?
 - 2. I want you to heal me and I want you to do it this way -if you're sick enough you don't care how God does it
 - 3. Why the Jordan and why seven times dipping?

IV. Delivered - 2 Kings 5:13-14

- 1. Naaman's servants intervene (**verse 13**)
 - if he'd asked for a big thing you would have done it
- Rea -once again it is the "little" servants that save the day
- 2. He dips and is cleansed (**verse 14**)
 - became "clean"
 - to be healed he had to follow God's directions
- Rea -Jesus said "follow me"
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
 - 1. The way of God and the way of pride are completely different
 - 2. Discuss the idea that Naaman probably knew nothing of the little maid's God
 - 3. Compare this healing with those you see performed by faith healers - compare and contrast

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