

# Introduction to the Bible

## Supplies:

- Tape
- Shredded paper
- Long rope
- blindfold

***UPPER***

***ELEMENTARY***

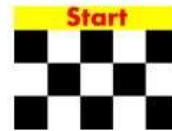
Intro:

Have one child wear a blindfold and give a long rope to the rest. Write a V, W or Z on the board, and have the rope holders make that shape. Ask the blindfolded student to tell you the letter. Why can't they do it? Now, let the blindfolded student follow the rope to guess what the letter is. This time, it is possible.

Just like hanging onto the rope helped the blindfolded child know what was going on, holding onto God helps us to know where we're going. We like to think we know how to do things on our own, but we just don't realize how blind we are without God's guidance.



## Elisha and Naaman



V W Z



2 Kings 5:1

Naaman was the commander of the Syrian army. The Lord had helped him and his troops defeat their enemies, so the king of Syria respected Naaman very much. Naaman was a brave soldier, but he had leprosy.

What was good in Naaman's life? (he was important and respected)

What was bad? (he had a terrible skin disease)



## Naaman's Life




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2 Kings 5:2-3

One day while the Syrian troops were raiding Israel, they captured a girl, and she became a servant of Naaman's wife. Some time later the girl said, "If your husband Naaman would go to the prophet in Samaria, he would be cured of his leprosy."

Did the Israelite girl have any reasons to dislike Naaman? (his people had captured her and taken her away from her home, she had to work for Naaman's wife) What could she have done instead? (not said anything and let him suffer) Why do you think she chose to suggest a cure for Naaman?



Naaman was a commander in the Aramean army. Today, the land of the Arameans is mostly Syria. Their language became so popular, that almost everyone around them spoke it. Some parts of the Old Testament are written in Aramaic instead of Hebrew.



What was the little girl's heart like?

The Israelite girl's heart was

Hard

Soft



2 Kings 5:4-7

When Naaman told the king what the girl had said, the king replied, "Go ahead! I will give you a letter to take to the king of Israel." Naaman left and took along seven hundred fifty pounds of silver, one hundred fifty pounds of gold, and ten new outfits. He also carried the letter to the king of Israel. It said, "I am sending my servant Naaman to you. Would you cure him of his leprosy?" When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes in fear and shouted, "That Syrian king believes I can cure this man of leprosy! Does he think I'm God with power over life and death? He must be trying to pick a fight with me."

What did the Israelite king think about Naaman coming? (it was a trick for the Syrian king to pick a fight with him) Does it sound like the king knew much about Elisha? (no)



What was the Israelite king's heart like?

The Israelite king's heart was

Hard

Soft



### 2 Kings 5:8-13

As soon as Elisha the prophet heard what had happened, he sent the Israelite king this message: "Why are you so afraid? Send the man to me, so that he will know there is a prophet in Israel." Naaman left with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house. Elisha sent someone outside to say to him, "Go wash seven times in the Jordan River. Then you'll be completely cured." But Naaman stormed off, grumbling, "Why couldn't he come out and talk to me? I thought for sure he would stand in front of me and pray to the Lord his God, then wave his hand over my skin and cure me. What about the Abana River or the Pharpar River? Those rivers in Damascus are just as good as any river in Israel. I could have washed in them and been cured." His servants went over to him and said, "Sir, if the prophet had told you to do something difficult, you would have done it. So why don't you do what he said? Go wash and be cured."

### Standing:

Have children play a game of Boot Camp. Tell them to respond to you with sir yes sir (or maam).

When I say jump, you say How high?

When I say run, you say How fast?

When I say squat, you say How low?

When I say do sit ups, you say How many?

Naaman was an important general. He was used to giving orders and having his soldiers obey them right away. Did he obey right away the way his soldiers did? (no) Why not? (he thought Elisha should have come out to meet him, he didn't think the instructions were hard enough, or made sense) Will God's instructions always make sense to us? Do we have to do hard things to come to God? (no, we can just come to Him)

What was Naaman's heart like?

Naaman's heart was

Hard

Soft



2 Kings 5:14-17

Naaman walked down to the Jordan; he waded out into the water and stooped down in it seven times, just as Elisha had told him. Right away, he was cured, and his skin became as smooth as a child's. Naaman and his officials went back to Elisha. Naaman stood in front of him and announced, "Now I know that the God of Israel is the only God in the whole world. Sir, would you please accept a gift from me?" "I am a servant of the living Lord," Elisha answered, "and I swear that I will not take anything from you." Naaman kept begging, but Elisha kept refusing. Finally Naaman said, "If you won't accept a gift, then please let me take home as much soil as two mules can pull in a wagon. Sir, from now on I will offer sacrifices only to the Lord."

How did Naaman's skin change? (it became smooth) How did Naaman's heart change? (he only wanted to worship God) Did Elisha accept gifts from Naaman? Why do you think he didn't? (God was the one who healed Naaman, not Elisha, he wanted Naaman to know that God's gifts are free)

What was Naaman's heart like now?



Naaman's heart was

Hard

Soft



**Closing:**

Have children wrap tape around their waists, sticky side out. Spread shredded paper on the floor and have them belly crawl from one side of the room to the other. Have them stand up and see how they look. Have them remove the tape. When they take it off, they look the same as before. Just like Naaman's skin, our hearts are covered with junk. We need to ask God to remove it and give us gentle, humble hearts so that we can truly worship Him.

**Elisha & Naaman****Word Search**

N	A	A	M	A	N	Q	R	Y	J
E	C	B	P	Q	X	T	I	N	K
R	E	L	I	S	H	A	V	L	M
O	U	Y	N	B	V	C	E	E	P
I	K	T	E	H	P	O	R	P	L
P	L	M	H	K	T	H	S	R	V
S	Y	R	A	I	G	E	E	O	S
X	R	E	U	N	V	A	D	S	W
D	V	B	N	G	I	R	L	Y	Z
E	F	J	I	Y	G	T	S	A	Q

**Extra Time:**

**ELISHA**  
**NAAMAN**  
**GIRL**  
**KING**  
**RIVER**

**LEPROSY**  
**HEART**  
**PROPHET**  
**SYRIA**

# Lower Elementary

## Introduction to the Bible

### Supplies:

- Prizes
- Plastic glove
- Baby powder
- Bowl of water
- Popsicle sticks
- Blue construction paper

### Intro:

- Tell children they will play a game and can get a prize if they win. Build up lots of hype so it will sound like they'll be asked to do something very difficult. When it's their turn, ask them if they would like the prize. If they say yes, give it to them and tell them they have won.
- Did you expect to win the prize that easily? Is it normally so easy to get a prize?
- Have you ever won something, or gotten something for free (before today)? Tell us the story, and how it made you feel. (Please come with a story/example of your own)



Do you like bullies? Of course not! No one does. There were some bullies picking on the Israelites. They made some of them work for them. This was wrong and unfair.

Do you think the Israelites would have liked to see something bad happen to their enemies? Would they be happy if they had problems?

You might think so, but there was one Israelite girl who didn't feel that way at all. She had a soft heart that was filled with love.

She worked for a General named Naaman and his wife. Naaman had a terrible disease called leprosy. It made his skin hurt. The girl told Naaman's wife that Naaman should go see the prophet Elisha. She said he did many miracles for God and could heal her husband.



Naaman was willing to try anything to make his skin better. Because he was an important general, he went straight to see the king of Israel. "I'm told you have someone here who can heal me!" Naaman barked at the king. "Let's go! I'm waiting!"

Heal leprosy? The king didn't know anyone who could do that. Not his advisors. Not his doctors. Not anyone. Maybe Naaman's king was trying to pick a fight with him by asking him to do something that was impossible.

"Hello!" Elisha sent a message. "Did you forget about me-Elijah's assistant? Have you forgotten that God has a prophet in Israel?"

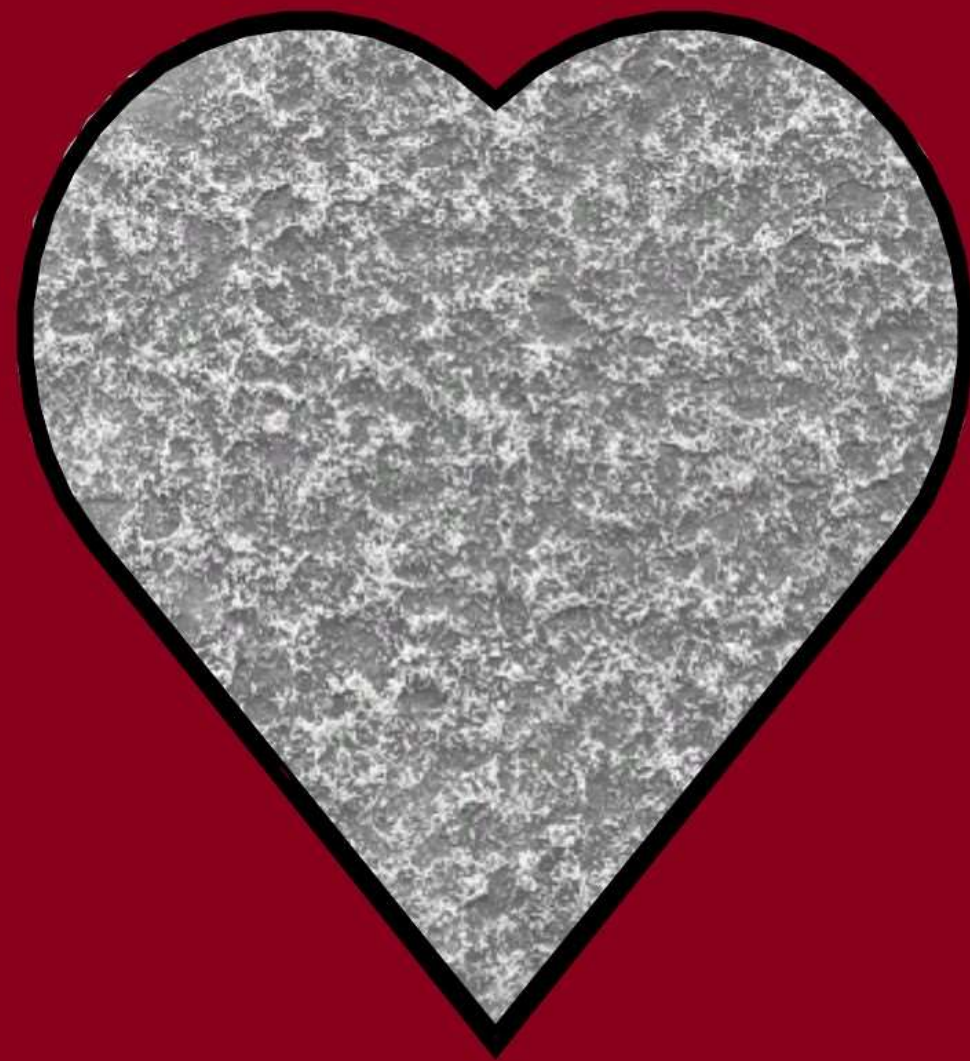


The king had forgotten. He had a hard heart and he didn't believe in God's miracles. He only thought about what he and his army could do.

So Elisha sent Naaman a very simple instruction: "Go to the Jordan River and dip in it seven times. That's all. Have a nice day!"

But just like the king of Israel, Naaman also had a very hard heart. "Excuse me!" he was so offended. "Elisha can't even come and examine me? And all he tells me to do is to take a bath? I've taken lots of baths to make my skin better. Nothing helps!"

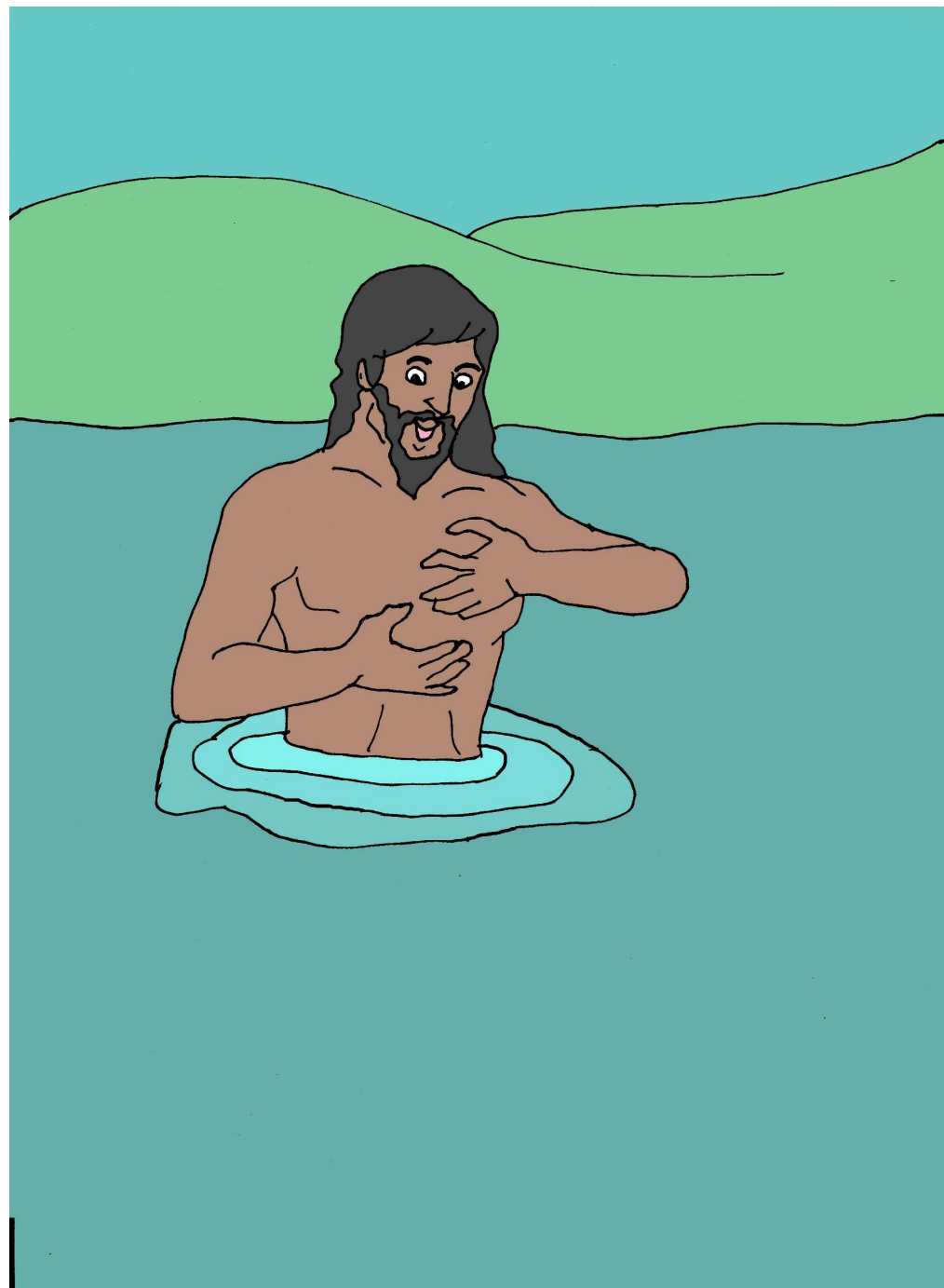
Naaman was so angry, he packed his bags to go home. How dare Elisha treat someone like him as if he were a regular person.



“Wait!” Naaman’s assistant called to him. “We came all the way here, can’t you at least try it? What could it hurt?”

Naaman didn’t believe that it could be that easy. In his land, people prayed to statues of pretend gods who they believed wanted them to give lots of money, or do really hard things in order to get anything from them. Naaman couldn’t understand God just asking him to believe in His power.

But Naaman gave it a try. He dipped his toes in the river, then walked to where it was up to his waist. “Okay,” he said to himself. “Here goes nothing!” He plunged under the cool water. “One, two, three, four, five, six...” When Naaman went down the seventh time, God healed his skin completely. He came up looking like a new person. And feeling like a new person.





Naaman was so happy, he realized that God was truly the only One he should worship. He offered Elisha money as a thank-you for healing him. But Elisha refused. God's love is a free gift! You don't need to buy it or earn it. You just need to believe in it.



“My heart belongs to God now,” Naaman told Elisha. And Naaman’s heart had changed. Even when he went back home, he only worshipped God from then on. God had healed Naaman on the outside, but more importantly, He had healed him on the inside, too.

Sometimes we think we can earn God's love if we are good enough, but God wants us to come to Him with humble hearts. Just like Naaman's yucky skin, our hearts are hard and yucky before we let Jesus in. Only God can give us gentle hearts.



### Discussion:

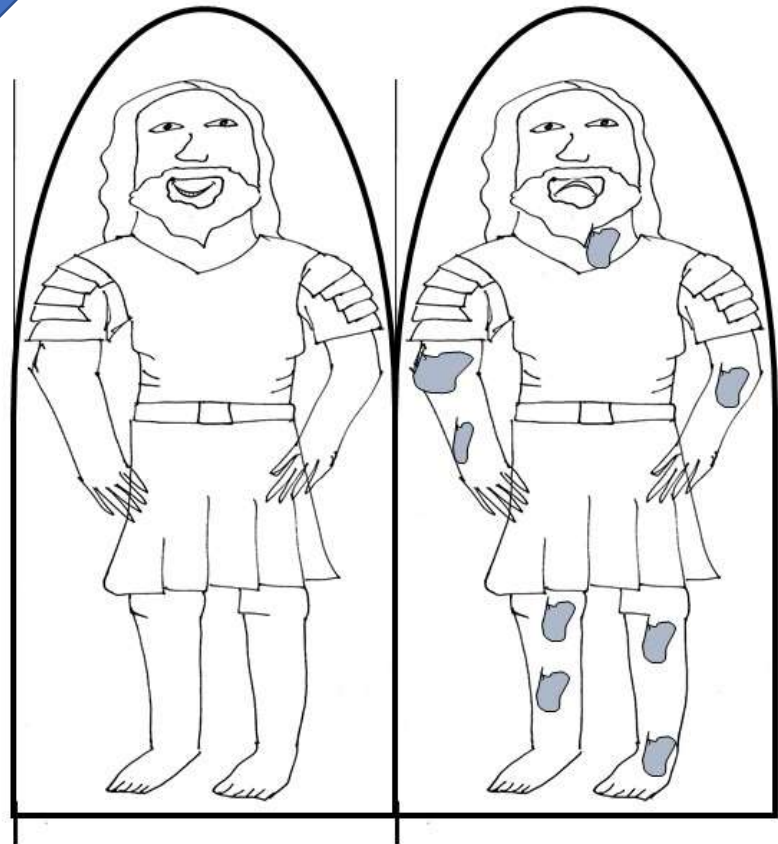
- ❖ Naaman was sick in 2 ways. What were they? (a skin disease, and pride/hardness of heart)
- ❖ In Naaman's story where did the forgiveness begin? (with the servant girl forgiving him for what he did to her family.) Is God's forgiveness always free? Do we have to DO anything or BUY anything to receive His love?
- ❖ Remind children that no matter what they do, or where they go, or how they feel, God is ALWAYS there, wanting to forgive and love them. ALWAYS.



### Craft:



- ❖ Children cut waves at top and bottom of blue paper
- ❖ Teacher folds over and staples to make 2 layers
- ❖ Children color & cut out leprous & healed Naaman figures
- ❖ Children glue 2 Naamans back-to-back with popsicle stick in middle
- ❖ Teacher cuts slit at bottom for Naaman to fit through; demonstrates how to make leprous Naaman dip down 7 times, then flip him around to healed side



### Closing:

#### Leprosy Glove:

Put some baby powder into a plastic glove and put the glove on your hand. Show children what a leprous hand would look like. Demonstrate how Naaman dipped seven times in the Jordan by dipping your hand in the bowl of water seven times, and then removing the glove. Say, "7-6-5-4-3-2-1, Wow!" Allow the children to smell your hand, the baby powder helps your hand smell like a baby, like Naaman's childlike skin.

### Extra Time:

## **Elisha and Naaman**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_



**Faith makes us sure of what we hope for and gives us proof of what we cannot see.. ~ Hebrews 11:1**

# Preschool

## Elisha and Naaman

### Supplies:

- Cotton balls
- Liquid glue

Sometimes bullies would come by and pick on the Israelites. One of these bullies was Naaman. He was mean to an Israelite girl.

But the little Israelite girl didn't try to be mean back to Naaman. Instead, she was kind to him. She had a soft heart.



Naaman had a very bad skin problem called leprosy. It made his skin yucky all over.

The little girl told Naaman to go see Elisha, God's prophet.



Naaman didn't believe in God, but he went to Elisha anyway to ask if he could heal him.

Naaman thought he would have to pay lots of money or do something really hard to earn it.

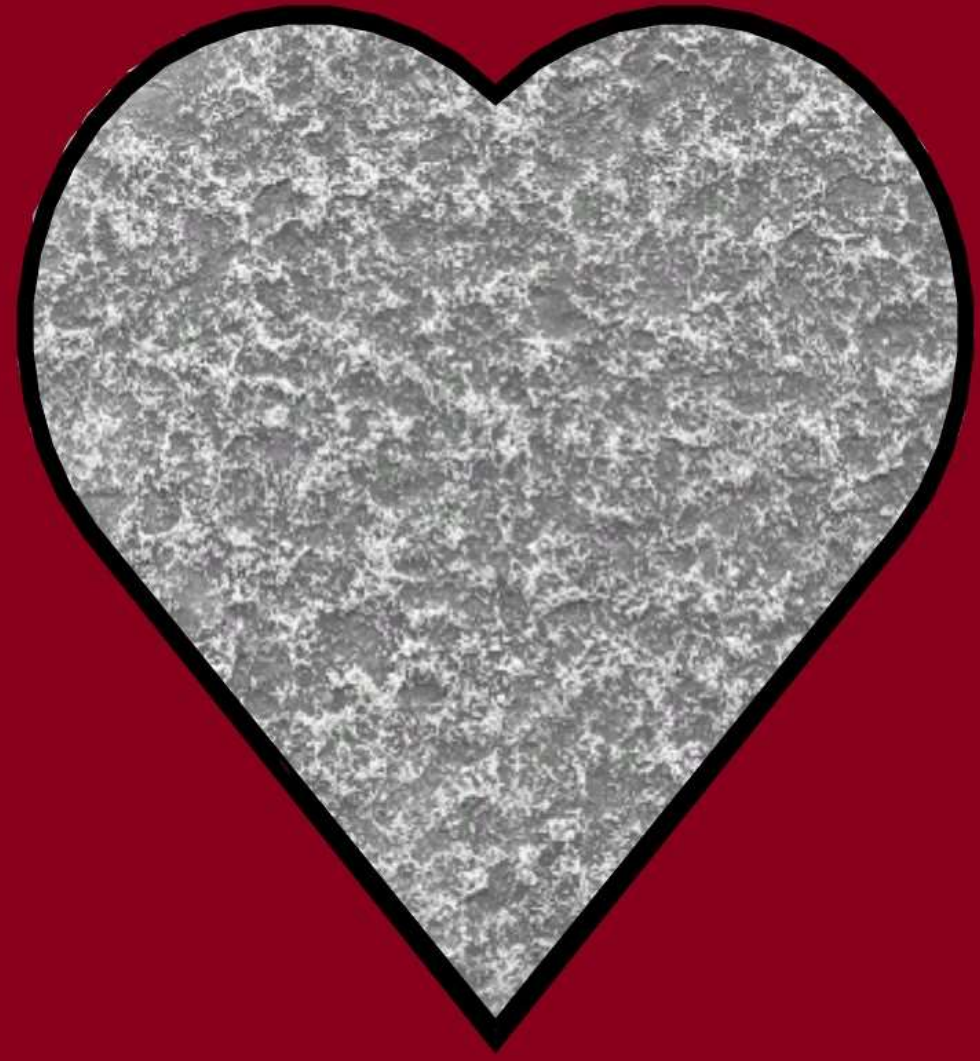




But Elisha didn't ask him for money or to climb a mountain or stand on his head for ten hours or wear painful shoes. He said God's gifts are free! The only thing Naaman had to do was show he believed in God's power by washing in the Jordan River seven times.

Naaman had a hard heart and was angry. He thought that was a silly cure. Did Elisha think he hadn't tried taking a bath yet? He started to go home.

But his servant told him to listen to Elisha. What did he have to lose by trying it out?

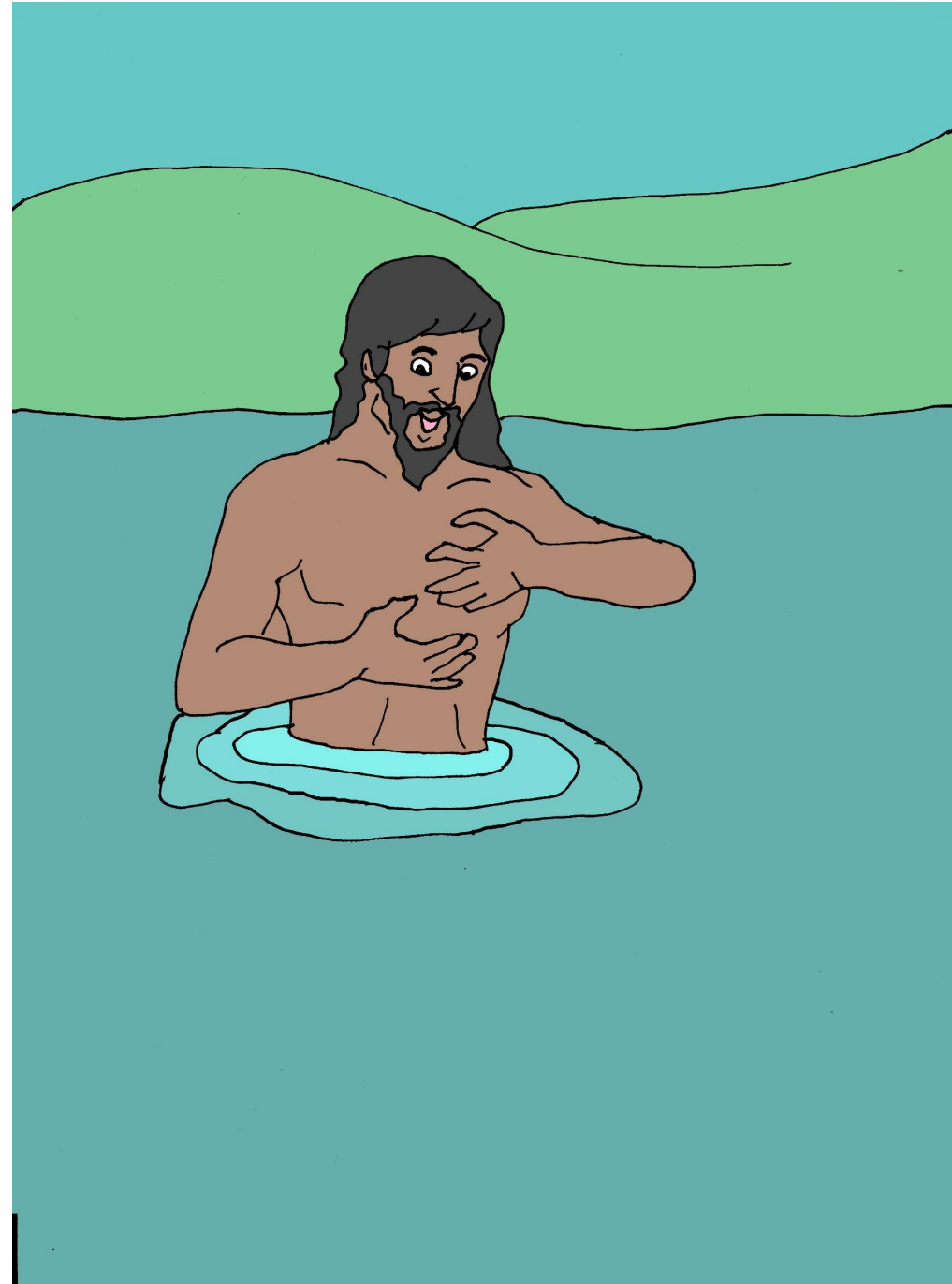




Naaman dipped in the Jordan River seven times. When he got out, he was cured!

Naaman realized God really does control everything. He put his trust in God and only worshiped Him from that day on.

God had healed his skin...and his heart.



Sometimes we think we can earn God's love if we are good enough, but God wants us to come to Him with humble hearts. Just like Naaman's yucky skin, our hearts are hard and yucky before we let Jesus in. Only God can give us gentle hearts.



## Elisha and Naaman

### Coloring Page:

Put glue inside the heart and give children cotton balls to put on it. Talk about how soft the heart feels. God wants us to have soft hearts.

### Modeling Dough:

Encourage children to make spots to stick on their skin. Pretend they are dipping into the Jordan River and take the spots off.

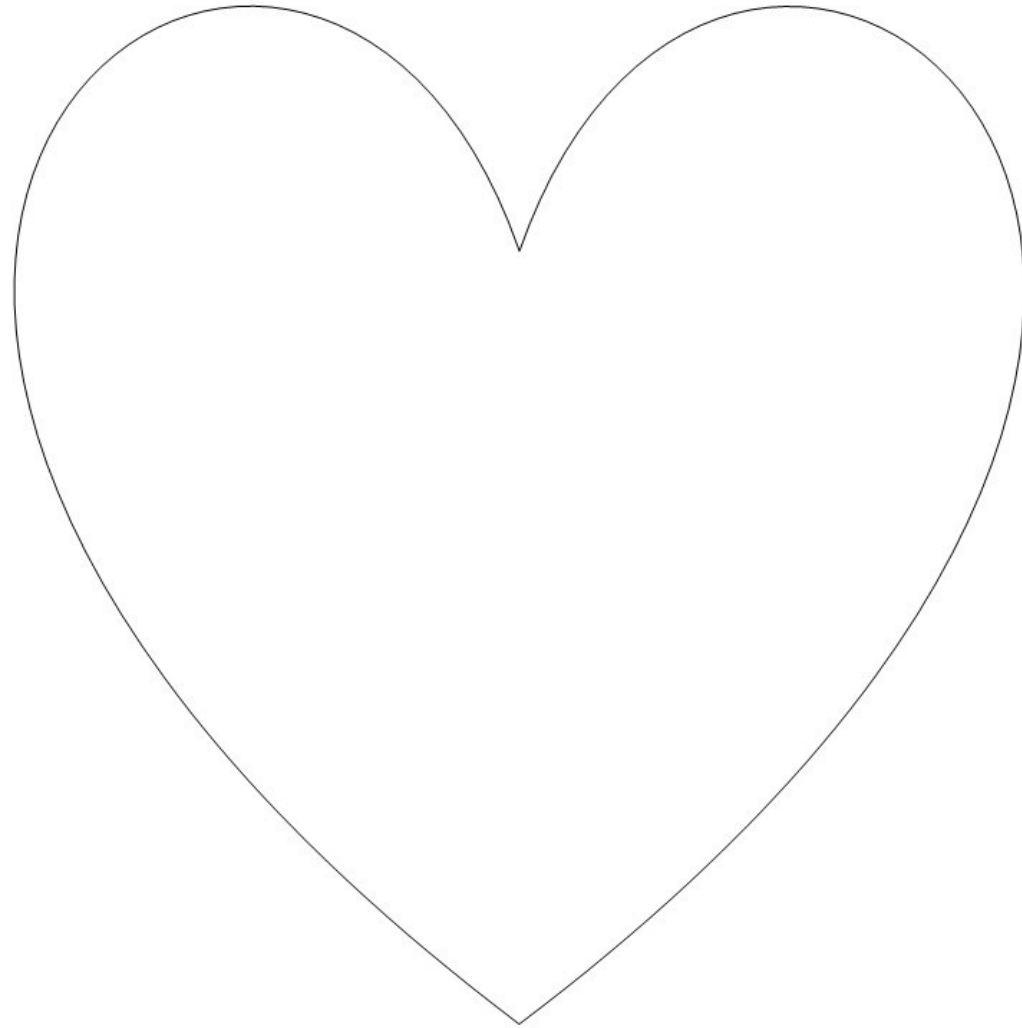
### Game:

Go around the room finding objects and asking children if they are hard or soft. What happens if we fall on each of these objects? (they cushion our fall if they are soft, they hurt if they are hard) Ask them what kind of heart God wants us to have, hard or soft? Remind them they can ask God to give them soft hearts.

### Song:

I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy Down In My Heart

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



**God can give me a soft heart.**