

Lower Elementary

Naaman

Checklist

- ☐ small prizes
- ☐ plastic glove
- ☐ baby powder
- ☐ bowl of water
- ☐ popsicle sticks
- ☐ blue construction paper

Introduction:

Tell students 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.

(Try to come with a story/example of your own)

Israel was no longer the strong country it had been under David and Solomon. It was divided in two and was surrounded by many nations that were more powerful. One of these was the Arameans. They Arameans had captured some of the Israelites when they fought and brought them and their families to 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, carrying a letter from the Aramean King. "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.

"Pardon me!" 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!"

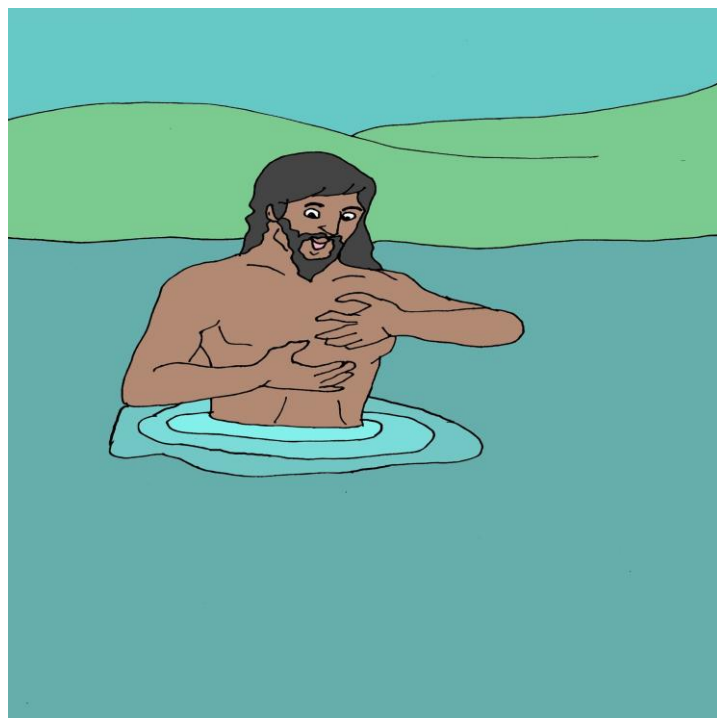
Naaman was so angry, he packed his bags to go home. How dare Elisha treat someone like him as if he were a regular person.



“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 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 worshiped 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.



Closing 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:

Popsicle Stick Naaman

Closing Activity:

Leprosy Glove: Put some baby powder into a plastic glove and put the glove on your hand. Show students 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.

Naaman

Name: _____



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

Materials: blue construction paper, popsicle stick

- 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



