

## Elisha and Naaman

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** 2 Kings 5

**MAIN POINT:** God healed Naaman.

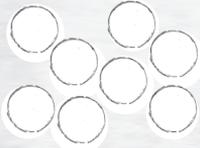
**KEY PASSAGE:** Hebrews 1:1-2

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** How many gods are there? There is one true God.

### SMALL GROUP OPENING

(15–20 MINUTES)

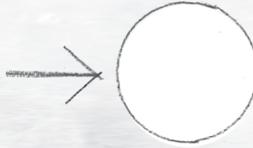
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### LARGE GROUP BIBLE STUDY

(10–15 MINUTES)

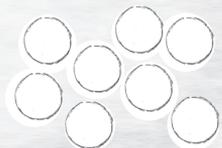
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### SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

(20–25 MINUTES)

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## Leader BIBLE STUDY

Everyone gets sick at some point in his or her lifetime ... often many times! Illness is probably no stranger to the kids you teach. In today's Bible story, Naaman—a commander for the Syrian army—was really sick. He had leprosy, a skin disease that was likely disfiguring and isolating. Without a cure, Naaman would face great suffering. But help came from an unlikely source: a young slave girl.

The people of Israel and Syria were often at odds with one another. The Syrians sometimes attacked the cities in Israel and plundered them. They took what they wanted, including people to work as slaves.

The young slave girl who served Naaman's wife had been taken from her home in Israel.

As an Israelite, the girl knew about the one true God. She was familiar with God's prophets, including Elisha, who had performed miracles to help and heal people. The girl told her mistress that Elisha the prophet could heal Naaman. So the king of Syria sent a letter to the king of Israel, asking him to cure Naaman of his leprosy. But the king of Israel had no power to heal Naaman. The power to heal comes only from God.

Elisha called for Naaman. But what happened next was not at all what Naaman expected. Naaman expected Elisha to call upon the name of God, wave his hand over Naaman, and miraculously heal him. Instead, Elisha instructed Naaman to go wash in the river.

Naaman was upset! He could have washed in a river back home! But Naaman's servants urged him to wash. He did, and God healed him.

Not all sick people will be healed on this side of heaven, but our physical maladies are symptoms of an even greater illness—sin. Jesus' death and resurrection provided healing—forgiveness and eternal life—for those who trust in Him.

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Additional resources for each session are available at [gospelproject.com](http://gospelproject.com). For free training and session-by-session help, visit [www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject](http://www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject).

# The BIBLE STORY

## Elisha and Naaman

*2 Kings 5*

Naaman (NAY muhn) was an important man. Naaman was the leader of the army from Syria. Sometimes Naaman and the army attacked the cities of Israel. God's people lived in Israel. Naaman and the army took things that did not belong to them. They even took people to work for them as servants. **Naaman was a strong leader, but he was sick. He had a problem with his skin.**

A young girl from Israel had been taken by Naaman's army, and she **worked as a servant for Naaman's wife.** **When the girl heard that Naaman was sick, she said, "I know a man in Israel who can make Naaman better."**

**Naaman wanted to get better! He went to see the king of Israel.** But the king of Israel could not help Naaman.

**"I am not God," the king said. "I cannot make sick people well. Only God can do that."**

**Elisha the prophet heard about Naaman, and he invited Naaman to his house. Naaman went to Elisha's house.** He was ready to be healed! **Naaman thought Elisha would come and wave his hand over Naaman's skin to heal him, but that is not what happened.**

**Elisha sent someone to tell Naaman what to do. "Go wash seven times in the Jordan River." Wash in the river?** **Naaman said, "I could have washed in the rivers near my home. Did I travel all this way for nothing?"**

**Naaman felt angry, but his servants asked him to do what Elisha said. So Naaman went to the river. He dipped himself into the river seven times. Then Naaman's skin was all better!**

**Naaman went back to Elisha. He said, “I know your God is the one true God.”**

*Christ Connection: Naaman was sick. He had a problem with his skin. When Naaman washed in the river, his skin got better. We are all sick with a sin problem. No one can obey God all the time. When we trust in Jesus, He heals us. God forgives us and makes us well.*



**WANT TO  
DISCOVER  
GOD'S WORD?  
GET  
MORE!**

Invite preschoolers to check out this week's devotionals to discover that Naaman was separated from others, but God healed Naaman. (2 Kings 5:10) Sin separates us from God. Only Jesus brings us to Him. (John 14:6) Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out [www.lifeway.com/devotionals](http://www.lifeway.com/devotionals).

# Small Group OPENING

**SESSION TITLE:** Elisha and Naaman

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** 2 Kings 5

**MAIN POINT:** God healed Naaman.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Hebrews 1:1-2

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** How many gods are there? There is one true God.

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## Welcome time

- “Only One True God” song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert download
- favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play the unit theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church’s security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

## Activity page

- “Who Is Sick?” activity page, 1 per child
- pencils or crayons

Guide preschoolers to circle the people who look sick or injured. (Answers: football player, man holding stomach by lamp, man in overalls with dots on face, child slouched in chair holding stomach)

**SAY** • In today’s Bible story, an important man named Naaman was sick. He went to God’s prophet Elisha for help. Elisha’s instructions for Naaman seemed silly. Let’s find out what Elisha told Naaman to do.

## Sing “I’m in the Lord’s Army”

Lead preschoolers performing motions and singing “I’m in the Lord’s Army.” If you are unfamiliar with the lyrics or motions, look online before the session.

**SAY** • Today’s Bible story is about a man named Naaman, who was a leader of an army. Naaman was not in the Lord’s army. Naaman was an enemy of God’s people, but God showed Naaman that *there is one true God*. Let’s discover how God did that.



## Play out visiting the doctor

Set out toy doctor kits. Invite preschoolers to play out being sick and going to the doctor or taking a sick baby to the doctor.

- toy doctor kits
- baby dolls

**SAY** • When we are sick, we go to the doctor for help. In our Bible story today, an important man named Naaman was sick. No doctor could help him. Naaman went to Israel to get help that only God could provide. Let’s find out what happened.

## Transition to Bible study

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, flip off the lights, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Invite preschoolers to play out being sick as they walk to Bible study.

- countdown video (optional)

# Large Group LEADER

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## Introduce the Bible story

Tell preschoolers about a time you or someone in your family was sick and how you or that person got better.

**SAY** • What do you do when you are sick? [*Allow responses.*]

In today's Bible story, a man named Naaman was very sick. He had a problem with his skin. Let's find out what he did to get better.

## Watch or tell the Bible story

Place a bookmark at 2 Kings in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

**SAY** • Every story in the Bible happened in real life. The Bible has God's true words in it. Today's Bible story is from the Book of 2 Kings.

Show the Bible story video "Elisha and Naaman," or tell the Bible story in your own words using the script provided.

Use the bolded version for younger preschoolers.

## Talk about the Bible story

**SAY** • Elisha gave Naaman what must have sounded like silly instructions, but when Naaman did what Elisha said, **God healed Naaman.** We are all sick with a sin

- bookmark
- Bible
- "Elisha and Naaman" video
- Bible Story Picture Poster

- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

problem that leads to death. No one can obey God all the time. When we trust in Jesus, He heals us. God forgives us and makes us well.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline or big story circle as you ask the following review questions:

1. What kind of problem did Naaman have? (*a problem with his skin*)
2. Why did the king of Israel say he could not make Naaman well? (*Only God can make sick people well.*)
3. Did Naaman want to do what Elisha said? (*No, he was angry.*)
4. What happened when Naaman obeyed Elisha's instructions? (**God healed Naaman.**)
5. What did Naaman learn about God? (*He is the one true God.*)

## Learn the big picture question

**SAY** • Our big picture question is ***How many gods are there? There is one true God.*** After **God healed Naaman**, Naaman said, "I know your God is the one true God." Only the one true God can make sick people well.

- Big Picture Question Poster
- Main Point Poster

## Practice the key passage

Open your Bible to Hebrews 1:1-2. Read the key passage aloud several times. Sing together the key passage song, "Speaking to Us."

- Key Passage Poster
- "Speaking to Us" song

**SAY** • Elisha was a prophet. Elisha told Naaman how to be healed. We are sick with a sin problem that leads to death. God tells us how to be healed through Jesus.

## Transition to small groups

# Small Group ACTIVITIES

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- construction paper
- markers

Option: Consider taking a class field trip to deliver the cards.

## Make get-well-soon cards

Identify people in your church who are dealing with illness or are homebound. Lead preschoolers in making get-well-soon cards for the church members you identified. As they work, tell preschoolers about the people who will receive the cards.

**SAY** • When sin entered the world, God's perfect world changed. People's bodies started to get sick. Naaman had a skin disease, and **God healed Naaman**. Sin affects more than just our bodies, though. Sin keeps us from obeying God all the time. When we trust in Jesus, He heals our sin problem. God forgives us and makes us better.

## Dip plastic people in water

Fill a plastic tub with a couple inches of water. Place towels under the tub and on the floor for preschoolers to stand on. Put several plastic people figures in the water and encourage preschoolers play out the Bible story by dipping the people in the water seven times.

**SAY** • Elisha told Naaman to wash in the Jordan River seven times and he would be healed. Elisha's

instructions seemed almost too easy. Naaman obeyed, and **God healed Naaman**. We are all sick with a sin problem that leads to death. God tells us in the Bible that to be forgiven we only need to trust in Jesus. It almost seems too easy, but when we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and makes us well.

## Examine skin and fingerprints

Invite a preschooler to examine his skin through a magnifying glass. Point out distinctive features. Show the preschooler how to press his finger onto an ink pad and then onto paper to create a fingerprint.

Guide preschoolers to compare their fingerprints with the fingerprints of their friends. Point out how everyone has different fingerprints.

**SAY** • Skin is an important part of our bodies. Naaman had a problem with his skin, but **God healed Naaman**. When Naaman washed in the river, his skin got better. We are all sick with a sin problem that leads to death. No one can obey God all the time. When we trust in Jesus, He heals us. God forgives us and makes us well.

- magnifying glasses
- paper
- washable ink pad
- wipes for cleanup

## Make a Naaman puppet

Provide a “Naaman” printable for each preschooler. Invite preschoolers to color one Naaman with a skin disease and one healed Naaman.

Assist preschoolers in cutting out their paper Naamans and gluing them back to back with a craft stick in between. Cut a hole in the bottom of a blue plastic cup. Demonstrate how to push the craft stick through the hole and use it as a handle to move Naaman in and out of the “water.”

- “Naaman” printables, 1 per child
- markers or crayons
- blunt-tipped scissors
- glue
- craft sticks
- blue plastic cups

Lead preschoolers to play out Naaman dipping in the water seven times with their puppets, turning Naaman to the healed side after the seventh dip.

**SAY** • Naaman felt angry about Elisha's instructions, but he obeyed. **God healed Naaman.** We are all sick with a sin problem. Jesus died on the cross and rose again to take the punishment for sin. The only way we can be forgiven and healed of our sin problem is to trust in Jesus.

## Mix colored water

Fill four wells in an egg carton with water. Add different colored drops of food color to each well.

Demonstrate how to use the eyedropper to collect water from a well and put it into an empty well. Lead preschoolers to mix colors and observe what new colors are made.

**SAY** • You made pretty colors by mixing water. Do you think the water in the Jordan River was all that special? Is that why Elisha told Naaman to dip in the river? No, special water did not heal Naaman; **God healed Naaman.** Naaman obeyed Elisha's instructions, and God healed him. God tells us in the Bible to turn from our sin and trust in Jesus. When we do, God heals us. He forgives our sin and gives us His Spirit to help us love and obey Him.

- food color
- eyedroppers
- clean plastic or foam egg carton

## Snack

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Guide preschoolers to clean their areas. Take a restroom break and wash hands. Gather preschoolers for snack time. Thank God for the snack.

Serve a blue gelatin dessert prepared in clear plastic cups for snack. Lead preschoolers to dip their spoon into the blue gelatin seven times. Remind preschoolers that Elisha told Naaman to wash seven times in the Jordan River. Naaman was angry at Elisha's simple instructions, but when he obeyed, **God healed Naaman**. Naaman learned that *there is one true God*. Naaman went back to Elisha and said, "I know your God is the one true God."

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert download
- snack food
- paper cups and napkins

## Transition

When a child finishes his snack, guide him to throw away any trash. He may select a book or puzzle to examine, play quietly with play dough or a favorite toy, or color the Bible story coloring page.

Offer the journal page and invite preschoolers to draw a picture of themselves at a time when they were sick. Remind preschoolers that God healed them of their sickness and God will also heal them of their sin problem and forgive them when they trust in Jesus. Pray for the children.

**SAY** • God, we are sick with a sin problem. We cannot obey You all the time. Thank You that when we trust in Your Son, Jesus, You forgive us of our sin and make us well. Thank You for loving us so much. Amen.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- books
- puzzles
- play dough
- Journal Page printable, 1 per child
- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons
- *Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschool*