

Bible Story 22: ELISHA THE PROPHET AND NAAMAN

SCRIPTURE: 2 KINGS 2:1-14; 5:1-19

MEMORY VERSE: “AND MY GOD WILL MEET ALL YOUR NEEDS ACCORDING TO HIS GLORIOUS RICHES IN CHRIST JESUS.” PHILIPPIANS 4:19 NIV

BIBLE STORY:

Elisha was a companion and helper to the elderly prophet Elijah. One day they were walking together and arrived at the Jordan River. Elijah took off his cloak (cape). After rolling it up, he struck the water at the river. Immediately the water divided so that Elijah and Elisha could cross over to the other side. As they were talking, suddenly a chariot of fire pulled by horses of fire came like a whirlwind and took Elijah upward to heaven. His cloak fell off as he left.

Elisha saw everything that God had done. Now Elisha was alone. He picked up Elijah's cloak and returned to the Jordan River. Taking the cloak, he touched the river and the water divided. A pathway was made so he could cross. God's power and presence was with Elisha.

In the land of Aram the king had a commander of his army named Naaman. He was respected. He suffered from a terrible sickness called leprosy. In his house lived an Israelite girl, who was a slave and served his wife. One day the girl spoke to Naaman's wife and said, *“I wish my master would go and speak to the prophet who lives in Samaria, because he could heal him.”*

Hearing the words, Naaman prepared for his trip to Samaria. He took with him horses, chariots, servants, silver, gold and

clothing. After traveling, he finally arrived at the prophet's home. At the door, Elisha sent his messenger to speak to Naaman. He told him to go to the Jordan River and submerge himself seven times under the water and then he would be healed.

Naaman was very upset because the prophet did not even speak to him personally. He thought that the rivers near his home were cleaner than the Jordan River. He would return there. But his servants insisted that it was best to obey the prophet Elisha. He had not asked him to do some great deed, but simply go and wash himself in the Jordan River.

So Naaman changed his mind and decided to go to the Jordan River. When he arrived, he submerged himself under the water one, two, three, four, five, six times, but nothing happened. Then Naaman submerged himself the seventh time. A miracle! He was healed! His skin and body was healthy like a child! He no longer had leprosy! Naaman was very happy! He returned to Elisha's home, thanking him and offering him gifts. Elisha did not accept any gifts but said that it was God who had healed him. Naaman returned to his home, happy and thankful to God, promising to serve only the powerful God of Israel.

LIFE-LESSONS:

1. In the house where she lived, the Israelite girl shared her testimony. Speak about God's love to those in your home: parents, children, brothers, sisters, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, guests, postman, gardener, etc. Also, invite them to go to church with you.
2. The prophet Elisha helped Elijah and Naaman. Help your family, friends, co-workers, classmates and teachers at your home, neighborhood, work, school and church.
3. Naaman thanked Elisha for his help. Thank people who help you. Who? (Examples: your family members, co-workers, teachers, pastor, firemen, policemen, nurses, doctors, dentists, etc.)
4. Naaman thanked God for his health. Thank God for your health and life.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Elijah and Elisha were prophets. Who is a prophet?
2. Was Elisha a friend and helper to elderly Elijah? How can you help the elderly? Help other people?
3. What did the prophet Elijah do with his cloak at the Jordan River?
4. What happened when the elderly prophet Elijah disappeared?
5. What did Elisha pick up when Elijah was taken to heaven? What did he do with the cloak when he reached the river? Was God with Elisha just as he had been with Elijah? Why do you know that?
6. Who was Naaman? What sickness did he have? Who told Naaman about the prophet Elisha? What are some ways that you can share about God’s love to others?
7. Did Naaman go to Elisha? What did Elisha tell Naaman to do? Did Naaman immediately follow Elisha’s instructions? Why not?
8. When you do not feel like obeying the Word of God, his Bible, should you still obey? Why?
9. When Naaman went to the Jordan River, how many times did he submerge himself under the water? What happened after the seventh time? Who healed him?
10. Who did Naaman thank when his health was restored?
11. Who are some people who help you? How? How can you express your gratitude to these people?
12. Has God helped you meet a special need in your life? How? Do you believe that God can help you? What are some ways that you can express your gratitude to God for His help?

SUGGESTIONS FOR THIS BIBLE STORY:

Choose activities that may be used in your specific situation. Consider the age and maturity of each person, locality where the story will be told (customs and traditions), and available resources, time and space.

PRESENTATION:

– From clippings of magazines, newspapers or DVD’s, show people who help others. Discuss how they help and how we can help them. (Examples: doctors, nurses, dentists, firemen, policemen, pastors, teachers, veterinarian, etc.)
 – Say: *“Our Bible story is about a man who helped others.”* After telling the story and applying Life-Lessons, pray especially for anyone facing health problems.

HELP SOMEONE:

– Option 1: Help someone who is sick in your group. (Examples: prepare food, clean house, mow yard, do errands, watch their children, etc.)
 – Option 2: Prepare and send a box of “goodies” for a missionary family. (Examples: of items: school material, toys, games, candy, books, clothes, music tapes/CDs, etc.)
Suggestion: Beforehand, check with the missionary family to see what items they may need.
 – Option 3: Prepare and deliver a basket of items for a needed family. (Examples of items in the basket: school material, books, toys, games, tooth paste, tooth brushes, soap, clothes, food, etc.)
 – Option 4: Prepare gifts for ones in a hospital. (Examples of gifts: for adults - books and magazines; for children - coloring books, crayons,

puzzles, games, stuffed animals, etc.)

EXPRESS APPRECIATION:

– Express appreciation to those who help you, such as family members, colleagues, pastor, neighbor, doctors, nurses, firemen, policemen, janitors, postman, school teachers, etc. Write Bible verse(s) on the cards:
 – Option 1: Prepare and give thank you cards, attaching candy to each one.
 – Option 2: Take flowers, homemade cookies or a box of candy and a thank you card to the doctor’s office, police station, church office, etc.
 – Option 3: Visit and tour a fire station. Before leaving, give each fireman one of the thank you cards, sharing your appreciation for the work he does.

GAME: “BALL IN A BASKET”

– Option 1: If a large group, divide into two groups. Place the same size boxes a little distance in front of each group. With a ball, the first person in each group throws it into the box. The next person in line, runs, gets the ball and returns. Then he throws it into the box. If you wish, give a point for a team when the ball goes into the box. Suggestion: If there is a court available, play basketball.
 – Option 2: Play other sport games such as soccer, baseball, horse shoes, board games, etc.

DAILY BIBLE READING - 2 Kings 2:1-14; 5:1-19

1 ST	2 ND	3 RD	4 TH	5 TH	6 TH	7 TH
2 Kings 2:1-4	2 Kings 2:5-10	2 Kings 2:11-14	2 Kings 5:1-2	2 Kings 5:3-7	2 Kings 5:8-14	2 Kings 5:15-19