#### Lesson 4:

#### Naaman

#### SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

2 King 5

#### MEMORY WORK:

Bible skills 1-6 Psalms 119:105

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I must do what God tells me to do if I want to be saved and go to Heaven

**LESSON STARTS HERE**



INTRODUCTION:

Briefly review the miracles Elisha performed in previous lessons. Ask the children what they think might have happened if the town, the widow, and the Shunammite woman had not done as Elisha told them to do. Discuss the importance of their obedience to Elisha’s instructions.

Today we are going to learn about a man who needed Elisha’s help, but this man did not want to do what Elisha said. When he decided to obey, something wonderful happened.

#### POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. **Naaman heard the good news**: Naaman was a commander in the Syrian army who led his troops to many victories. He was brave and greatly respected, even by the Syrian king. He was a good man. But Naaman had a terrible problem: he had the deadly disease of **leprosy**. Living in his house was a servant girl, a Jewish girl who had been kidnapped during a raid and taken to Syria. She told Naaman’s wife that she knew “the man of God” in Samaria could heal her master.

**Leprosy:** a skin disease that causes skin sores, nerve damage, and muscle weakness with symptoms getting worse over time. The Israelites who contracted this disease were commanded to quarantine themselves outside the camp. Like the lepers Jesus healed, they were to shout “Unclean!” if anyone came near. It appears that the Syrians did not have the same fear of the disease, or it could be that the word translated “leprosy” here may refer to another skin disease. [See Leviticus 13:1-46] The disease known today as leprosy (or Hansen’s disease) is caused by a particular strain of bacteria. While it is not considered “highly infectious,” it can be transmitted with repeated close contact through moisture droplets from the nose and mouth. It can lie “dormant” for as long as five years; symptoms may not appear for as long as 20 years. [See the World Health Organization at [www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs101/en/](http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs101/en/) for additional information.]

1. **Naaman tried to save himself**: Naaman told the king of Syria what the young girl had said. He sent a letter and gifts to the King of Israel asking that **he** cure Naaman of his leprosy! But the king of Israel did not understand this request and thought the king of Syria was trying to “pick a fight.” Elisha heard about Naaman’s request and the king of Israel’s distraught response; he sent word for Naaman to come directly to him.
2. **Naaman refused to do what was necessary to get well**: Naaman went to Elisha’s home, as any important official would, with servants, horses, chariots, and gifts. Elisha did not even come out to speak directly to Naaman but sent Gehazi, his servant, to tell him what to do: go wash in the Jordan River seven times. Naaman was angry because (1) Elisha sent word by a servant instead of coming out to meet such an important man (as if to say, “Doesn’t he know who I am?”), and (2) he did not want to wash in the dirty Jordan River. He thought he was too important to do something that simple—too important to humble himself in front of his servants like that.

**NOTE**: James 4:10 indicates that God wants those who desire to be lifted up to first be humble. By not coming out and doting over Naaman and by requiring him to wash seven times in a dirty river (in front of his entourage), God was requiring total, humble submission to His will before His blessing would be bestowed.

1. **Naaman was cured when he finally decided to obey, to put his faith into action**: Naaman was finally persuaded by his servants to go to the Jordan and do as Elisha said. Naaman was healed—not because of anything miraculous in the water—but because he decided to obey. When he was cured, he returned to Elisha’s home and told him, “Indeed, now I **know** that there is no God in all the Earth except in Israel” (2 Kings 5:15). This miracle affirmed the prophet’s word and proved to Naaman the great power of God, forcing him to choose between the one true God and the idols that he had worshiped in Syria all his life.

**RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS:** See the articles “[**Making Sense of**](http://www.apologeticspress.org/apcontent.aspx?category=11&amp;article=1230)[**Baptism**](http://www.apologeticspress.org/apcontent.aspx?category=11&amp;article=1230)” and “[**Two Different Questions: What and When?**](http://www.apologeticspress.org/APContent.aspx?category=11&amp;article=1864&amp;topic=139)” by Eric Lyons and “[**The**](https://www.apologeticspress.org/APContent.aspx?category=11&amp;article=2685&amp;topic=77)[**Meaning of Baptism and the Catholic Ritual**](https://www.apologeticspress.org/APContent.aspx?category=11&amp;article=2685&amp;topic=77)” by Moises Pinedo on the Apologetics Press Web site for a discussion of important implications from Naaman’s baptisms.

1. Today our problem is spiritual leprosy: sin. There are certain, specific things God has told us to do to get rid of sin (and be healed spiritually), just like Naaman was told something very specific to do to be healed physically. Sometimes people we talk to about Jesus get very excited and are interested in learning more about Him. Other people think that they can somehow save themselves if they are just “good people.” Some people will ignore what the Bible says to do or will work very hard to make excuses for not obeying God’s Word. But to be saved, **everyone** has to do what God says, whether or not they understand God’s commands or not. Many today do not believe that baptism is important. There is nothing miraculous in the water itself; it takes away our sins because we are doing what God commanded. Just like Naaman “dipped” (literally, went completely under the water) himself in the Jordan River, baptism is an immersion under water. Hearing God’s Word, believing it, and choosing to become a Christian by being baptized are all actions of obedient faith.

RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL VISUALS (**note disclaimers**):

* Betty Lukens’ felt pieces
* Elisha ABeka Flash-a-Card Series (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, not the lesson book)
* Free Bible Images saved on flash drive to be shown on tv. Suggested script is in lesson file.
* Act out with dolls. – Use Bible figures/little people/Barbies, etc. Draw spots on Naaman with a washable marker. Dip him in bowl of water 7 times. After seventh time wipe the dots off with a baby wipe.

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS :

# Prophet SUNDAY

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

* For each child in the class, make a copy of a “Naaman” figure on both sides of a piece of paper. On one side write, “Naaman did not want to obey God,” and let the children paint or draw spots on him. (To make the spots, the children can dip a cotton swab in red or pink paint, or use a red or pink marker.) On the other side write, “Naaman obeyed God.” (You can also use men cutouts and glue them together, with a craft stick in between, as a Naaman stick puppet.) (“[Naaman Cutout](http://www.apcurriculum.com/dcirfol/4-24-33-174Naaman.pdf)” provided in activity sheets)

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review Sunday’s lesson. (See [Review Questions](http://www.apcurriculum.com/dcirfol/4-24-32RQ.pdf) for example questions.)

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

* Let the children act out the story.
* Review game: Bring a dish of water and a man figurine. Ask each child a review question

from the story. If he answers correctly, let him dip Naaman in the water. Continue with the

questions until every child has had a turn.

### Review Questions

1. Who was Naaman?
   1. A commander in the Syrian army
2. What was Naaman’s problem?
   1. He had a skin disease called leprosy.
3. Who told Naaman’s wife about a man of God in Samaria that could heal him?
   1. A Jewish servant girl who lived in their house
4. What happened that caused a misunderstanding between the King of Syrian and the King of Israel?
   1. The King of Syria sent a letter and gifts to the King of Israel asking that he cure Naaman. The King of Israel thought he was trying to cause a fight.
5. What did Elisha do when he heard about the misunderstanding?
   1. He sent word for Naaman to come to him.
6. What did Elisha do when Naaman arrived at his home?
   1. He sent his servent, Gehazi, to tell Naaman to wash in the Jordan River seven times.
7. Why was Naaman angry?
   1. Elisha did not come to talk to him in person and he didn’t want to wash in the dirty Jordan River.
8. What was getting in Naaman’s way of being healed?
   1. Pride – He thought he was too important to dip in the river.
9. Who persuaded Naaman to do as Elisha had commanded?
   1. His servants
10. What happened when Naaman dipped in the Jordan River seven times?
    1. He no longer had leprosy.
11. After he was healed, what did Naaman come back to tell Elisha?
    1. He knew the only god was the God of Israel
12. What do people have to do to have their sins washed away?
    1. Be baptized in water

Additional Notes / Activities Performed & Curriculum Feed Back

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