



## Lesson 130

# Naaman the Leper

### Story Elements

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Text:</b> 2 Kings 5:1-19</li> <li>• <b>Setting:</b> circa 845 B.C., Damascus and probably Gilgal</li> <li>• <b>Main Characters:</b> God, Elisha, Naaman, and an unnamed Hebrew girl</li> <li>• <b>Plot:</b> Naaman is healed of his leprosy and becomes a follower of Jehovah.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Key word(s):</b> “ _____ ”</li> <li>• <b>Climax:</b> 2 Kings 5:12 <i>Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? may I not wash in them, and be clean? So he turned and went away in a rage...</i></li> </ul> |
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### Naaman's Disease

- (a) (v 1) Naaman was a high-ranking military leader in the Syrian army, but, despite his decorated service record, he was afflicted by \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) (vv 2-3) Within Naaman's household was a Hebrew \_\_\_\_\_ that had been captured in a raid and made to serve Naaman's wife. When the little girl heard of Naaman's disease, she expressed her confidence that Elisha the prophet could heal her master of his disease.
- (c) (vv 4-5) The word of a possible cure for Naaman reached the ears of the king of Syria, who made provision for Naaman to make a trip to Israel in order to seek out this cure. A letter was written to the king of Israel explaining the purpose of peaceful the Syrian envoy.
2. (vv 6-8) When the envoy arrived at the palace of the king of Israel, Jehoram suspected it was a \_\_\_\_\_, i.e., he believed that Syria was seeking a reason to go to war with Israel. But word of the situation reached Elisha, and he sent a message to the king to send Naaman to him.

### Naaman's Dilemma

3. (vv 9-12) Upon arrival at Elisha's house, Naaman was instructed by Elisha's servant to go wash in the Jordan river \_\_\_\_\_ times in order to be healed. Naaman was furious and turned to leave in a rage. He was angry for two reasons:
- (a) He was not greeted by Elisha but by a \_\_\_\_\_. Such behavior was considered rude.
- (b) Naaman expected a spectacular event, but instead was told to bathe in the \_\_\_\_\_, which was an unpleasant river when compared to the cool, clear waters that flowed in the Abana and Pharpar.

4. Why do you think that Elisha treated Naaman this way? \_\_\_\_\_
5. (vv 13-19) As Naaman turned to leave, his servants pleaded with him to do as the prophet had instructed. Naaman relented and went to the Jordan river.
- (a) After he had dipped himself seven times, his leprosy was \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) With gratitude, Naaman vowed to always worship the LORD God – even when he was expected to attend the pagan ceremonies of the Syrian god \_\_\_\_\_.
- (c) Naaman even planned to bring two mule-loads of earth so he could worship God on Israel’s \_\_\_\_\_.

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## Application

6. Naaman’s affliction reminds us that money can’t buy happiness. Matthew Henry notes, “Naaman was as great as the world could make him, and yet (as bishop Hall expresses it) the basest slave in Syria would not change \_\_\_\_\_ with him.”<sup>1</sup>
7. This story is a story of grace in unexpected places. Naaman did not expect healing power to be present in the Jordan – he even balked at the idea. In the same way, many believed that Jesus could not be the Messiah – or even a prophet – because he came from \_\_\_\_\_ (cf John 1:46). But God is glorified when His power is shown where it is least expected. (See 1 Cor. 1:26-29)
8. Both the Old and New Testaments show that grace is given to all kinds of people, and that pleasing God is not a matter of fitting into a certain demographic, but by simply \_\_\_\_\_ his Word.

*Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Answer Key:** Key word(s): “meal” • 1. a) cauldron; b) cucumber; c) flour • 2. A) twenty; b) leave • 3. In 1 Kings 17:14-16, the widow's flour and oil are replenished; the Bible speaks of man not living by bread alone, but by every word of God; one of the elements of the Lord's Supper is bread. • 4. Strength • 5. Christ • 6. darkest

**How to use this worksheet for personal Bible study:** (1) Read the Bible passage given in the **Story Elements** section. (2) Read through the worksheet and try to fill in the blanks without looking at the **Answer Key**. (3) Check your answers with the key and make the necessary corrections. Keep in mind that some answers are a matter of opinion, and often more than one answer is correct. (4) Write down your own thoughts, applications, and questions for further study in the **Notes** section.

<sup>1</sup> Henry, Matthew. *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994. Print.