

LESSON



Naaman Serves God

SERVICE

God teaches us how to serve.

References

2 Kings 5:15-17; *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 249, 250.

Memory Verse

“Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel” (2 Kings 5:15, NIV).

Objectives

The children will:

Know that there is only one God to worship and serve.

Feel willing to live their lives as examples for others.

Respond by putting God first in their life.

The Message

We serve others, but we put God first.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Story at a Glance

Naaman has been healed of leprosy. He acknowledges to Prophet Elisha that he will never again worship any other God than the true God of Israel. Naaman wants to thank Elisha by leaving many expensive gifts, but Elisha refuses. Elisha wants Naaman to know that it wasn't him that healed him, God did. Elisha wants Naaman to serve the true God. Naaman returns home. His wife and servant girl, Little Maid, are happy, and they all worship God together. Naaman serves others

in his home and heathen country by putting God first in his life. Others see his life as an example of how to live and worship.

This is a lesson about service.

The way we live and what we put first is an example to others. People watch our actions and listen to our words. We serve others by showing that we put God and Jesus first in our lives.

Teacher Enrichment

“Centuries after Naaman returned

EIGHT

Program Outline			
LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Activities	up to 10	A. <i>It's My Favorite!</i> B. <i>Lining Up</i> C. <i>Voting</i>	white/chalkboard or large paper, marker/chalk stickers or other small gifts three nature pictures, marker, tape, slips of paper, pencils, basket
* Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	See page 86. *Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story	none
		Bible Study	Bible
		Memory Verse	Bible
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Jesus Is First</i>	picture or large felt of Jesus; various pictures or objects; first-, second-, and third-place ribbons (see p. 159)
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>First-place Ribbon</i>	Ribbon pattern (see p. 159), blue paper, scissors, two-sided tape

to his Syrian home, healed in body and converted in spirit, his wonderful faith was referred to and commended by the Saviour as an object lesson for all who claim to serve God. 'Many lepers were in Israel in the time of Eliseus the prophet,' the Saviour declared; 'and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian.' Luke 4:27. . . . God works for those who appreciate His favors and respond to the light given them from heaven.

"Today in every land there are those who are honest in heart, and upon these the light of heaven is shining. If

they continue faithful in following that which they understand to be duty, they will be given increased light, until, like Naaman of old, they will be constrained to acknowledge that 'there is no God in all the earth,' save the living God, the Creator" (*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 252, 253).

Do you have faith as Naaman did in trusting God? What do you do to share God's light with others?

Room Decorations

See Lesson 5.

Teaching the Lesson

Welcome

Welcome children at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Encourage them to share any experiences from last week’s lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. It’s My Favorite!

You Need:

- white/chalkboard or large paper
- markers/chalk

Teachers: List the following activities on white/chalkboard or paper (large enough for everyone to see). Have your class raise their hands as you ask the following questions: **Who likes to spend time eating? Who likes to spend time with your mom and dad? Who enjoys hanging out and playing with friends? Who likes playing games?**

Ask: **Of these activities we just talked about, which is your favorite? That means you enjoy doing that more than all the others.**

As you go through the list again, have the children raise their hands if this is their favorite activity. Check to be sure each child votes only once.

Debriefing

Ask: **Do you know that how we spend our time tells us what is important to us?** (yes) **What should be the most important thing in our lives?** (God, Jesus, following God, helping others)

Have you ever thought about the place God should be in our lives? Should He be the most important person, number one, in our lives? (yes) **Today’s Bible story is about the change in Naaman after he was healed of leprosy. He had learned something important. Something we all need to learn. Today’s message is:**



We serve others, but we put God first.

Say that with me.

B. Lining Up

Say: **I’m going to give each of you a sticker. Would you please come and make a line here to get a sticker?** Watch for those who let others get in front of them.

You Need:

- stickers or other small gifts

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Do you like your sticker? I was watching you as you lined up to get your sticker. Did anybody put others first and invite them to get in front of them in line?** Comment in general on the way the children lined up. Praise those who let others go first.

Say: **Today's Bible story is about Naaman. He learned more about the true God in heaven. We want to learn more about God too. I want to put God first in my life. Do you? Today's message is:**



We serve others, but we put God first.

Say that with me.

C. Voting

Cut three nature pictures from a magazine, or use poster-size pictures. With the marker write A, B, or C at the bottom corner of the pictures and tape them on the walls. Give each child a slip of paper and a pencil and tell them they are to vote for their favorite picture. Have them put their slip of paper in the basket.

You Need:

- three nature pictures
- marker
- tape
- slips of paper
- pencils
- basket

Debriefing

Allow response time as you say: **Let's look at the slips of paper to see which picture had the most votes.**

Count the votes and decide which picture came in first place, which in second place, and which in third place. Tell the children the results. **Do you think being first or winning is what is the most important thing in our lives?** (No. It's nice, but not the most important thing in our lives.) **What should be the most important thing in our life?** (God, Jesus, following God, helping others)

Ask: **Have you ever thought about what place God should be in our lives? Should He be the most important person, number one, in our lives?** (yes) **Today's Bible story is about Naaman and an important lesson he learned. He learned to put God first in his life. We want to learn that lesson too. Today's message is:**



We serve others, but we put God first.

Say that with me.



NOTE: Prayer and Praise appears on page 86.



Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

Ask the children to say "God is first" each time they hear you say the word God. Practice before telling the story.

Read or tell the story.

Perhaps Captain Naaman raced his chariot horses as fast as they would go. He was so excited to be going back to Prophet Elisha's house. Healed! Healed! That sounded so wonderful. Yes, he was healed. The **God** [*Say: "God is first"*] of Israel and of Little Maid had healed him.

Dust swirled around the horses as Naaman and his servants stopped in front of Elisha's house. Captain Naaman knocked on the door. No doubt he couldn't stop smiling. He was so happy to be well.

Maybe this time Elisha opened the door. "Oh, you must be Prophet Elisha," Naaman may have said, a little surprised to see him. Naaman must have smiled from ear to ear. Likely it made Elisha smile back. Captain Naaman showed Elisha his skin. It was smooth and healthy looking. Over and over he thanked Elisha. Elisha nodded and smiled.

"Now I know that there is no **God** [*"God is first"*] in all the world like the **God** [*"God is first"*] of Israel," Naaman exclaimed. "Please take these gifts."

Naaman's servants began to unload all the silver and all the gold and all the new clothes they had brought from Captain Naaman's home.

Elisha held up his hand. "No, no," he said, shaking his head from side to side. "I will not take any gifts." Elisha did not want to take presents from Naaman, because he did not want Naaman to think he could pay to have **God** [*"God is first"*] heal him. Elisha didn't serve **God** [*"God is first"*] to make money. Elisha wanted

to give **God** [*"God is first"*] the credit for healing Naaman. Elisha was just happy that Naaman now knew **God** [*"God is first"*] and wanted to serve and worship Him.

Naaman begged Elisha to accept the gifts. "Please, take these gifts. I want to show you how thankful I am." Still Prophet Elisha shook his head no. He would not accept the gifts.

Naaman was quiet. He nodded his head in thanks to Elisha. Then he ordered his servants to pack the gifts. Soon Captain Naaman stepped into his chariot and shook the reins as he called out, "Let's go home!"

Perhaps, Mrs. Naaman had been watching the road from her window for some time. She must have been expecting her husband back any day. No doubt when she saw a dust cloud form on the horizon, she hoped it would be Captain Naaman. The cloud of dust moved nearer, and she saw that it really was her husband. She probably hurried to meet him.

Maybe she blinked her eyes a few times as she looked at him. Her husband might have looked years younger! The white leprosy spots were gone! "You're well! Tell me everything!" she may have shouted with joy. Now *she* couldn't stop smiling! Perhaps Naaman smiled and laughed as he told his wife about all that had happened. "I knew Little Maid's prophet could heal you," she may have said.

"Yes, but it wasn't the prophet who healed me," Naaman said. "It was **God** [*"God is first"*]. There is no other **God** [*"God is first"*] like Him. We pray to our idols, but they don't help us. They don't heal people. The **God** [*"God is first"*] of Israel is the true **God** [*"God is first"*]. I have decided to wor-

ship only Him from now on.”

Mrs. Naaman likely nodded her head in agreement. “Yes, this **God** [“*God is first*”] is like no other.”

From then on Captain Naaman prayed only to **God** [“*God is first*”]. No longer were there wooden or stone or metal idols in their home. Little Maid was so happy to see Naaman and his wife praying to her **God** [“*God is first*”], the true **God** [“*God is first*”].

The whole country heard that Naaman’s leprosy was gone. The whole country knew now that there was a **God** [“*God is first*”] in Israel who could do mighty things, things that their idols never could do.

Captain Naaman became an example of someone who puts **God** [“*God is first*”] first. His family saw this, his servants saw, his soldiers saw, and his neighbors saw. Everyone saw that Naaman put **God** [“*God is first*”] first in his life.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **How did Naaman feel when he saw Prophet Elisha?** (happy, thankful) **What did Naaman say about God?** (The God of Israel is the only true God.)

Was Naaman thankful to God for healing him? Do you think Naaman was happy to tell his family and friends about putting God first and encourage them to worship Him too? (yes) **That is one way he could serve God. You can do that too.**

You Need:
 Bible

Bible Study

Open your Bible to 2 Kings 5:15-17. Point to the text and say:

This is where today’s story is found in the Bible. Read the verses aloud, paraphrasing as necessary.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Why wouldn’t Elisha accept the gifts?** (Because he hadn’t healed Naaman, God had; he didn’t want Naaman to think he could buy healing; he didn’t want Naaman to think he [Elisha] served God for money.)

Did Naaman continue to worship idols after he got back home? (no) **What were the two big changes in Captain Naaman’s life?** (He was healed of leprosy; he learned to put God first in his life.)

Do you think Naaman tried to put God first in his life once he found out about Him? (yes) **Do you remember our message? Let’s say it together:**



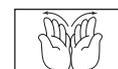
We serve others, but we put God first.

Memory Verse

Turn to 2 Kings 5:15 and say: **This is where we find our memory verse in God’s Word, the Bible.** Read the verse aloud. **“Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel.”** Then proceed to teach the memory verse as outlined below.

You Need:
 Bible

- Now I know** Point to forehead.
- that there is no God** Shake head “no”; point upward.
- in all the world** Outstretch arms.
- except in Israel.** Bring arms back together and lock hands.
- 2 Kings 5:15** Palms together; then open as if opening a book.



PRAYER AND PRAISE



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study and review the memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"I Go to Church" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 187)

"Into My Heart" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 195)

"Happy All the Time" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 198)

"If You're Happy" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 200)

"Oh, Friend, Do You Love Jesus?" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 210)

Mission

Say: **Let's see who put God first in our mission story today.** Use a story from *Children's Mission*.

Offering

Say: **We want to put God first in our lives. One way to do that is to give our offerings. God gives us everything we have. So we happily give some money back to Him to help other people know about Him. Today our offering is for _____ mission.**

Prayer

Say: **Let's pray together. Children, please repeat after me. Dear Jesus, we want to put You first in our lives. We love You. Amen.**

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

3

Applying the Lesson

You Need:

- large image of Jesus
- various pictures or objects
- first-, second-, and third-place ribbons (see pattern on p. 159)

Jesus Is First

In advance, purchase or make "1st Place," "2nd Place," and "3rd Place" ribbons (see p. 159). (First place is usually blue, second is red, third is white.) Also arrange a picture or large felt of Jesus, along with pictures or objects to represent family, friends, toys, TV, candy, sports, clothes, money, etc., where all can see.

Ask: **Have you ever seen a ribbon that someone won for**

doing something really well? The ribbons usually say first place or second place.

Say: **Look at these pictures (or objects), and let's decide together which should have first place in our lives, second place, and third place. The first place should be the most important thing to us. The second place should be a little less important, and so on.**

As a group decide (Jesus should be first, family second, friends third) and

place the appropriate ribbon beside the picture or object.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Are you happy with our decision? Who should have first place in our lives? You've made a very good choice to put Jesus first.**

What can we do to put Jesus first in our lives? (Talk to Him every day, have family worship, listen to Bible stories, etc.) **How do you think Jesus feels when you make Him first? Or last?**

Say: **Talk to Jesus every day and ask Him to be first in your life that day. He can help you make good choices.**

You can serve Him better when you put Him first. Others will see what kind of person you are, and they will want to know more about the God you serve. Let's repeat our message:



We serve others, but we put God first.

4

Sharing the Lesson

First-Place Ribbon

You Need:

- Ribbon pattern (see p. 159)
- blue paper
- scissors
- two-sided tape

In advance, make a copy of the Ribbon pattern (see p. 159) on blue paper for each child. Help the children cut them out and put two-sided tape on the back so they can wear it.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Do you like your ribbons? Do you**

know what they say? (God is first.) Read it aloud.

Say: **Take your ribbon home and share it with someone this week as you tell them about Naaman putting God first in his life. And put God first in your life every day this week. Let's say our message together one last time:**



We serve others, but we put God first.

Closing

Sing "Good-bye Prayer" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 44). Say a prayer something like this: **Dear Jesus, help us to remember to talk to You every day and to put You first in our lives. We love You. Amen.**

STUDENT LESSON

Naaman Serves God

References

2 Kings 5:15-17; *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 249, 250

Memory Verse

"Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel" (2 Kings 5:15, NIV).

The Message

We serve others, but we put God first.

What things are very important to you? Is it your family or your friends? What about God? Why did Naaman say that God was the true God? Find out in the story below.

Perhaps Naaman ran his chariot horses as fast as they would go. The God of Israel and of Little Maid had healed him. He just had to show Elisha.

Dust swirled around the horses as Naaman and his servants stopped in front of Elisha's house. Naaman knocked on the door. He couldn't stop smiling.

Maybe this time Elisha came to the door. Naaman might have smiled from ear to ear. It made Elisha smile. Naaman showed Elisha his skin. It was smooth and healthy looking. Over and over he thanked Elisha. Elisha probably just nodded and smiled.

"Now I know that there is no God in all the world like the God of Israel," Naaman exclaimed. "Please take these gifts." Naaman's servants began to unload all the silver and gold and new clothes they had brought.

Elisha held up his hand. "No," he said, shaking his head back and forth. "I will not take any gifts." Elisha did not want to take presents from Naaman, because he did not want Naaman to think he could pay to have God heal him. Elisha wanted God to have the glory for healing Naaman. He was just happy that Naaman now knew the true God.

Naaman begged Elisha to accept the

gifts. "Please, take these gifts. I want to show you how thankful I am." Still Prophet Elisha shook his head no.

Naaman bowed his head in thanks to Elisha and Elisha's God. His servants packed the gifts. Naaman stepped into his chariot and shook the reins as he shouted, "Let's go home!"

Mrs. Naaman may have been watching the road from her window. A dust cloud formed on the road. Her husband! She likely ran to meet him. She couldn't believe her eyes! The white leprosy spots were gone. "You're well!" she may have shouted with joy. Now *she* couldn't stop smiling! Naaman may have smiled and

laughed as he told his wife all that had happened. "I am so happy that Little Maid's prophet has healed you," she might have said.

"Yes, but it wasn't the prophet who healed me," Naaman said. "It was God. There is no other God like Him. The God of Israel is the true God. I have decided to worship only Him from now on."

The whole country heard that Naaman's leprosy was gone. The whole country knew now that there was a God in Israel who could do mighty things that their idols could never do.



Do and Say

Sabbath

Each day this week read the lesson story together and review the memory verse:

Now I know Point to forehead.

that there is Shake head no; point upward.

no God

in all the world Outstretch arms.

except in Israel Bring arms back together and clasp hands.

2 Kings 5:15 Palms together; then open as if opening a book.

Sunday

Read 2 Kings 5:15-17 together. Ask: Why did Naaman want to give Prophet Elisha gifts? Why didn't Elisha take them? Did Naaman worship idols anymore? Whom did he worship?

Pray with your child every morning. Ask God to help your child serve Him throughout the day.

Monday

Encourage your child to share the first-place ribbon they made in Sabbath School with someone and tell them about Naaman putting God first in his life. (Or draw a ribbon on a blue piece of paper and write "God is first" on it.)

Sing a happy song.

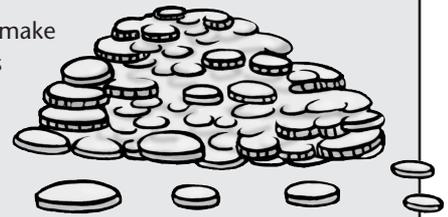


Tuesday

Help your child make modeling clay coins by using bottle lids as cutters. Talk

about the gold and silver gifts that Naaman wanted

to give to Elisha. Ask: Why didn't Elisha take the gifts? Should we help others just to get a gift? Why?



Wednesday

Talk about why God should be first in our lives. What can we do today to make God first in our lives? Do something your child suggests.

Thursday

Let your child draw and decorate a thank-you note. Send it to someone who has helped your child know Jesus better.

Help your child put coins in order of their monetary value. Ask: Which is worth the most money? Which is next? Do some people put money first in their lives? Let's pray that God will help you always to keep Him first.

Friday

Act out the Bible story with your family for worship. Ask: How can we give Jesus first place in our lives?

Sing "Into My Heart" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 195), then ask God to help your family keep Him in first place.