

Naaman and Elisha

2 Kings 5



What is this man doing? Let's read and find out from our story how he followed some very simple directions to solve his big problem.



The Story

There was a man named Naaman who was a commander of the army in the country of Syria. He was a great leader, but he had a terrible disease called leprosy.

Naaman's wife had a young servant girl who heard about Naaman's disease. She had been taken a prisoner from Israel. The girl told her mistress, "If only my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria! For he would heal him of his leprosy." The prophet's name was Elisha.

Naaman went to the king of Syria and told him what the little girl had said. The king sent a letter to the king of Israel, along with many gifts, asking him to heal Naaman's leprosy. The king of Israel was upset because he knew he couldn't heal anyone. When Elisha the prophet found out, he told the king to send Naaman to him.

Naaman went with his horses and chariot and stood at the door of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to Naaman saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan River seven times and you will be healed."

When Naaman heard this, he was very angry. He expected Elisha to come outside and heal him. He also said, "Aren't the rivers in my country better than all the waters of Israel? I could have washed in them and become clean." Then he went away in a rage.

Naaman's servants went after him and asked, "If the prophet had told you to do something very difficult, wouldn't you have done it? Then why not try doing this very simple thing?"

So Naaman went down and dipped

seven times in the Jordan River as Elisha had told him. His skin looked clean and the disease was gone. Naaman went back to Elisha and said, "Indeed, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, except in Israel; now please accept a gift."

But Elisha would not accept a gift. Naaman asked for some soil to take with him, perhaps to show that nothing in his own country was as good as Israel's, not even the soil. Naaman also asked Elisha to pardon him whenever he needed to assist his master in the temples of false gods. As a new believer in the true God, Naaman did not want to have it on his conscience.

Elisha said, "Go in peace."

After Naaman had gone a short distance, Elisha's servant, Gehazi, thought up a wicked plan. He knew that Elisha had refused the gifts, so in his greed, he wanted to get them. Gehazi ran after Naaman and told a lie. He said that his master had sent him because two young men of the sons of the prophets needed money and clothing. Naaman gladly gave Gehazi the things, even more than he had asked. Gehazi made his servants carry the goods to his house, then he sent them away.

When Gehazi went before his master, Elisha asked, "Where did you go, Gehazi?"

Once again Gehazi lied saying, "Your servant did not go anywhere."

But Elisha knew the truth. Because of Gehazi's greed and lies, Elisha cursed him and his descendants with leprosy. Gehazi left with skin as white as snow.

The Lord through Elisha healed Naaman of his leprosy.

Activity One - Complete the CROSSWORD PUZZLE using the words in the Word Box.

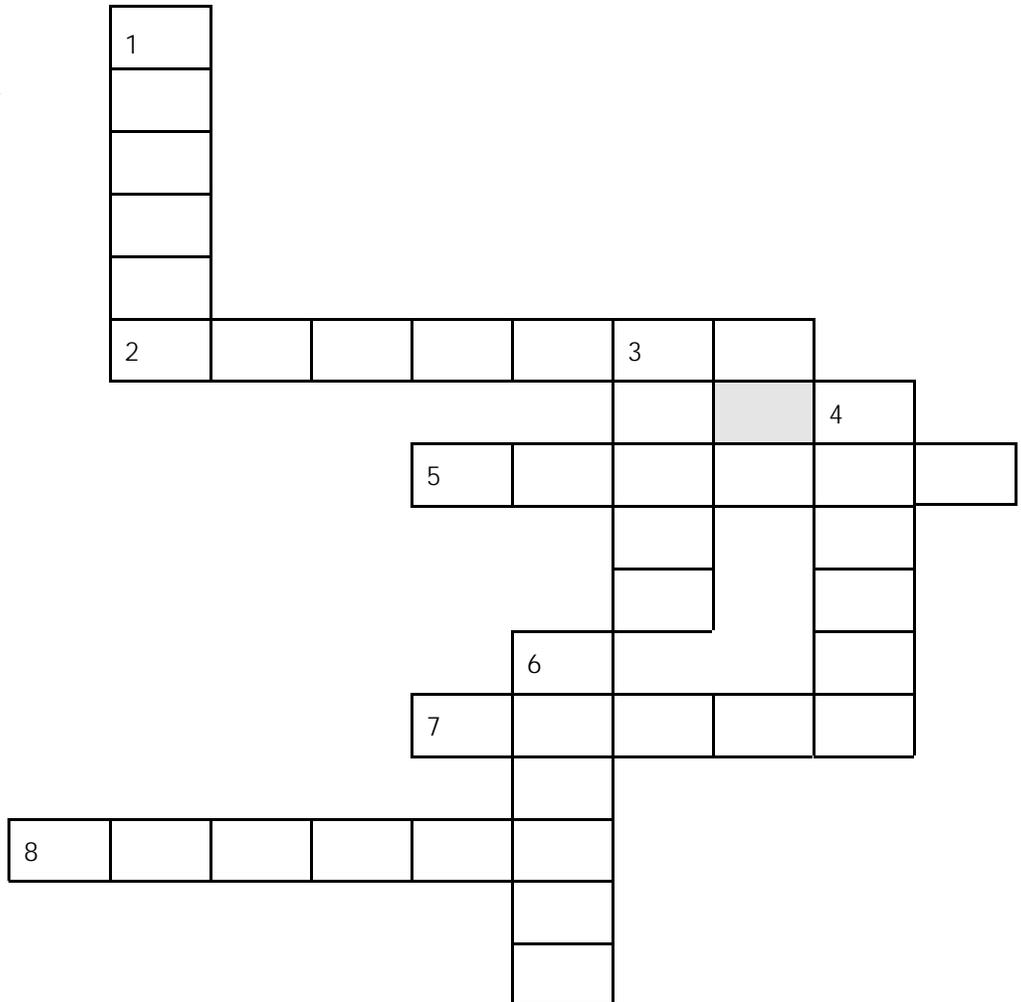
SEVEN NAAMAN ISRAEL ELISHA JORDAN GEHAZI SYRIA LEPROSY

ACROSS

2. The terrible disease that Naaman had.
5. The river in which Naaman was to wash.
7. The number of times Naaman had to wash.
8. The prophet of God.

DOWN

1. The country the servant girl was from.
3. The country Naaman was from.
4. The man with leprosy.
6. The man who was greedy.



Activity Two - Answer the following questions.

1. What was Naaman's big problem?
2. What was the "simple" way to cure it?
3. After Naaman heard about the cure, he was very angry. Why?

4. Who supplied the real cure for Naaman's problem?
5. What did Gehazi want?
6. What were the two lies Gehazi told?
 - a.
 - b.
7. What happened to Gehazi because of his greed and lies?

God, through Jesus Christ, has taken away our sins.

Passages

Psalms 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet
And a light to my path.

1 John 1:7 - The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Hymn - TLH #297 v. 1, 2

The Gospel shows the Father's grace,
Who sent His Son to save our race,
Proclaims how Jesus lived and died
That man might thus be justified.

It sets the Lamb before our eyes,
Who made the atoning sacrifice,
And calls the souls with guilt opprest
To come and find eternal rest.

Prayer

Dear Savior Jesus Christ,

We thank You for allowing us to be here today to learn about Your precious Word. Teach us to cherish this Word and never to despise it because it is "too simple"! Make us brave to speak up and tell others about our faith as the little servant girl did. We ask this in Your saving name. Amen.