



Date: _____
Series: God in the Storms of Life
Spring Year 4, Lesson 58

Healing of Naaman

Primary Scripture: 2 Kings 5:1-19

Key Verse: Acts 1:8, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes to you. Then you will be my witnesses to testify about me in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

Kids oftentimes think they cannot make a difference because they are kids. However, kids have the ability to make a powerful witness of what God can do. This is especially true since many believing kids have a great deal of faith. Today's lesson highlights how a young servant girl pointed Naaman towards the true God through his prophet, Elisha. As kids learn to point others to God, they also see the importance of obeying God in whatever he tells us to do. Naaman had to be obedient to receive the healing that God had for him.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus loves us deeply and is concerned about our every need, even to the point of his own death. He gave his life so that we can have a relationship with God forever.

Jesus in us: Strength to obey God comes from the power of the Holy Spirit in us.

Jesus through us: All of us, no matter what age, can proclaim that there is only one God and we can follow him through faith in Jesus.

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Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring forward the worship symbols such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Supplies: white icing, large sack or box

Choose a child to help you before class. Put white icing on his/her face in spots to look like leprosy. Place a box or brown sack over his/her face. Lead him/her onto the stage just before the Attention Grabber begins.

Say:

I wonder whom we have here.

Pull the bag or box off the head of the volunteer.

Oh my, what is wrong with your skin? That stuff looks gross! Do you know who you remind me of? You remind me of Naaman from the Old Testament. He had a disease called leprosy.

Leprosy was and is a very dreaded disease. If you have this disease, your skin turns yucky and falls off. If you had leprosy all over your face, it would be horrible.

Naaman was helped by a little servant girl. She told him about the living God and his prophet Elisha. Today we will worship God who invites all people to come to him and find healing and love. We are reminded that we can help lead others to God.

Have volunteer leave the stage and wash his/her face.

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

Your choice of music.

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

Supplies: Band-Aids

Take several Band-Aids and, as you are talking about the Bible verse, attach them to the front of your shirt in the shape of a cross.

The Bible says that each one of us, at one time, was spiritually dead on the inside. That means that we were separated from God. How is it that God can heal us and bring us to new life in him?

The Bible says in 1 Peter 2:24, “Christ carried our sins in his body on the cross so that freed from sins, we could live a life that has God’s approval. His wounds have healed you.”

Who knows what God’s word means when it says, “His wounds have healed you.”? What wounds did Jesus have?

Jesus had wounds in his hands and feet as he went to the cross for us. His body took the punishment that we deserved because of our sin.

Because of this, we are healed—not only in our bodies, but also, in our spirits. Now we can be friends with God forever.

Have you accepted Jesus as your Savior? Have you admitted that you need his forgiveness? Do you believe that by his stripes you are healed? If you believe that Jesus gave his life for you, then trust him as your Savior and ask him to come into your life today.

If you believe with all of your heart that Jesus died for the punishment of your sins, you can say these words softly after me.

Dear God, Dear God,
I need your forgiveness. I need your forgiveness.
I have sinned. I have sinned.
I need to be healed. I need to be healed.
Thank you for Jesus. Thank you for Jesus.
He died for me. He died for me.
He rose for me. He rose for me.
By his stripes I am healed. By his stripes I am healed.
I believe this. I believe this.
Jesus, come into my life. Jesus, come into my life.
Give me new life, Give me new life,
Life with you forever. Life with you forever.
In Jesus' name. Amen. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Ask for those who prayed this prayer for the first time, to please meet with a leader after worship time to follow up with further conversation.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

Show pictures of missionaries or people that your church supports or sends money to help their ministry grow. It would be great if some of the pictures showed families with children. Explain how the children in the pictures are a very important part of the ministry with their parents.



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

Elbow Tag:

Have kids get into pairs and link arms.

Round One

Choose one pair of kids and separate their linked arms. Assign and announce one of them to be a chaser (or "it") and the other to be the one chased. The chaser tries to tag his original partner who runs to a safe place, which is another pair of kids. Tell the rest of the kids, still in partners, that they are the home base and that the one chased is only safe when he/she links elbows with a home base pair. But, there can never be three people linked. So, that means that the person on the opposite end of the home base must be released immediately and run from the one who is "it."

Round Two

For this round, have each pair of kids link up with another pair to form a foursome. Now, choose a pair (separating a foursome) to be "it" and chase the other pair. When the chased pair attaches to a foursome home base group, the pair on the other end releases and tries to get away.

Teaching Point

In this game, it is important to connect to each other and link arms. In the same way, God can use us to connect other people with him. Then they can be "saved" by the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Just like the little girl in our story today, it doesn't matter how old you are to connect others with Jesus.

Bible Presentation:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

OPTION ONE: A Visit from a Dramatized Character

Supplies: costume for Naaman (He could have Biblical army attire or he could have modern army clothes.)

Introduction

Hello, my name is Naaman. As you can see, I am an army man. I was the commander of the Aramean king's army back in the time when the prophet Elisha lived.

I had a great life. Sure, war was not fun, but the pay was incredible and the luxury that came with the position was pretty sweet. I had everything I ever wanted until one day.

Naaman is stricken with leprosy

One day as I was about to take a bath, I noticed something on my skin. I was terrified when I realized it was leprosy. Leprosy was a disease that could not be cured. It was a terrible disease in which the skin becomes infected and falls off. Infected sores were all over my body.

I looked awful and everyone stayed far away from me because this disease was very easy to catch. It was such a miserable time of my life!

The servant girl

My wife had a servant girl. She was a great little girl and served my wife very well. She was very concerned about my situation and told my wife, "If only my master, Naaman, were with the prophet from Samaria. His name is Elisha and I know he could cure him of the leprosy."

I was amazed that this little girl would be brave enough to connect me with this prophet and to her God.

Naaman visits Elisha

I didn't know what to think about what this servant girl said, but felt I needed to try. Maybe this prophet had some special powers that could heal me.

I went to the king and received permission to go see the prophet Elisha. I took with me 750 pounds of silver, 150 pounds of gold, and 10 sets of clothing. I was hoping that this would be enough to pay for the healing. I traveled far and finally reached Elisha's home.

I was so angry when Elisha didn't come out to personally greet me. He sent a messenger, his servant, out to tell me to wash in the Jordan River seven times and then my skin would be clean.

Did he think I was a fool? The Jordan River is filthy and dirty. I thought this prophet could at least have come out of his house, stood somewhere and called on the name of the Lord his God, or wave his hand over my skin to heal me. But, to wash in the filthy water of the Jordan River was ridiculous!

A bath in the Jordan River

I left Elisha's home very angry. But as we rode along the road, my servant said something that really hit home. He said, "Master, if Elisha had asked you to do something grand, you would have done it. So since he asked you to do something simple, why not try it?"

I thought about what he said and decided to give it a try. I walked into the dirty river and went under the water seven times just as the prophet had said to do. My skin became as healthy as a child's skin. I was healed. It was a miracle!! This prophet was truly a man of God, and his god is the one and only true God!

Return to Elisha's home

We returned quickly to Elisha's home to thank him. I stood in front of Elisha and told him, "Now I know that there is no god in the whole world, except the God of Israel. Please accept a gift from me."

Elisha was such a humble man. He would not accept my gifts because he said it was the Lord who healed me, not himself.

Conclusion

I am so thankful for this little servant girl who was bold enough and had faith enough to connect me with this incredible man of God. Not only was my physical body healed, but more importantly, my spiritual body was healed. I now have a relationship with the one, true, living God.

Now I take every opportunity to try to connect others to God. How about you? Do you realize how important you are in connecting others to God? Just like this little girl, age doesn't matter. Just have a relationship with God and put your faith and trust in him. He will use you in a mighty way!

OPTION TWO: Video Presentation

Introduction

In today's video, we will meet a man named Naaman. Naaman was the commander of the Aramean king's army. This was a very important position.

He was a very happy man until one day. Naaman was taking a bath when he noticed he had a skin disease called leprosy. Leprosy was a terrible disease. There was no cure. The skin became infected and fell off, leaving terrible sores all over the body. People always stayed away from those that were infected with this disease because it was so contagious.

The servant girl

Naaman's wife had a servant girl from Israel. This little girl loved the one true God and knew there was a prophet in her country that could heal Naaman with God's power. She told her mistress, "If only my master, Naaman, could visit the prophet Elisha. I am sure he could heal him of this disease."

Naaman received permission from the king to go visit Naaman. Let's watch the video and find out what happened.

Watch the video

Show the video, *The Animated Stories from the Bible: Elisha*, distributed by Nest Family Entertainment. Start the video when Elisha's servant says, "He is waiting, Master, the commander of the Syrian army." End the video when Naaman is healed. The time is 2 minutes 25 seconds.

Conclusion

I am sure Naaman was very thankful for the little servant girl who connected him to the living God through Elisha. Naaman received physical healing, but more importantly, he received spiritual healing.

Have you ever had the opportunity to connect someone else to God? Have you ever had an opportunity to share with someone about Jesus? It doesn't matter how old or how young you are. We are all able to connect other people to Jesus. He can use you in a mighty way, just like he used this little servant girl.

Application:

Supplies: a bag with a small gift for each child in it such as a fast food coupon, small candy bar, chewing gum or other small wrapped candy

I am going to start by passing this bag to someone. When they receive the bag they may take a gift from the bag. Then they must link arms with me as together we offer the bag to someone else. Each time the bag is offered to someone else they may take a gift from the bag, but then must link arms with the person who offered it.

We will continue until everyone has received a gift and we are all linked together. Let's begin.

Offer the bag to someone and let him or her get a treat from the bag and then link arms. This person will in turn share the bag with someone else. Continue until all are linked together.

Let's form a circle and remain connected.

Link arms with the last person connected so there is a complete circle.

Each one of us had an opportunity to share a gift with someone. As we passed it on, look how long our chain became. Each one of you has a valuable gift to share with others. It is the gift of Jesus. Just think what would happen if each one of us shared Jesus with someone and then that person shared with someone and on and on. Just think about how many people would be healed spiritually.

Each of you is a valuable part of this chain, and each of you has an incredible story to share with others about Jesus. I want to challenge you this week to invite someone to come to church with you.

This is just like the little servant girl in our story. She told Naaman about Elisha, and God was able to heal Naaman both physically and spiritually through him. Maybe God could use you to invite someone to come to church where they could hear about Jesus and also be healed spiritually.

Let's pray.

Dear God, thank you for healing us spiritually. Thank you for putting people in our lives willing to share about you with us. Give us opportunities to share with others this week, just like the little servant girl. In Jesus' name. Amen.



Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

Let kids tell who connected them to Jesus. Then let any volunteers tell about others they have had the privilege of connecting to Jesus.

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Line Option:** Kids line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone to speak their prayers briefly.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Adults or children with special prayer needs are invited to sit in the chairs. Kids gather around them, lay hands on their shoulders or knees and take turns praying.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and turns it toward kids who are raising their hands to pray. The kids speak their prayers into the microphone.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Supplies:

Attention Grabber:

- white icing
- large sack or box

Power of the Cross:

- Band-Aids

Bible Presentation:

Option One:

- costume for Namaan (either Biblical army attire or modern army clothes)

Option Two:

- video, *The Animated Stories from the Bible: Elisha*, distributed by Nest Family Entertainment—order from www.nestfamily.com. Link to Children’s Bible Stories and enter. Type in “Elisha” in the search box and enter. Order as instructed.

Application:

- a bag with a small gift for each child in it such as a fast food coupon, small candy bar, chewing gum or other small wrapped candy

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