

How to Use Sermon Resources

- **READ AHEAD TOGETHER** - MCG's should use the Devotional at the end of this resource as a reading plan for the week leading up to your meeting.
- **SIT UNDER THE WORD** - This resource is filled with scripture references. Read them aloud, together before you answer any questions.
- **APPLY TRUTH** - The goal is deep discussion and application, not necessarily to complete this resource. Don't squash a good discussion. If you get into something important along the way that's fine.

Small Group Discussion Guide

Opening Prayer [2 mins]

Use the Overview [5 mins]

- Cover any key points for people who missed parts or all of the sermon

Scripture Deep Dive [30-40 mins]

- Opening Question
- Read the scripture for each question then ask the question. Some have multiple scriptures.

Close in Prayer

- In this extended prayer time, ask others to pray as they feel led, pray in a circle, pray over one another, pray to your left, or pray for someone specific. Whatever seems best.

Split Time (if applicable)

- Men with men, women with women
- Share in a circle. "What's one thing you want to celebrate? What do you need prayer and accountability for?"
- After everyone shares, pray in a circle for the person to your left/right.

SERMON OVERVIEW

"A Picture of Grace" - 2 Kings 5:1-6:7

Sermon Summary: This sermon explores the transformative power of God's grace through the story of Naaman in 2 Kings 5. Pastor Matt emphasizes that grace is shared by believers, powerful enough to save anyone, freely given without cost to the recipient, and life-changing in its impact. The central theological point is that God's grace, while free to receive, was costly to God through Christ's sacrifice, and genuine reception of this grace results in visible life transformation.

Key Points:

- Grace is shared
- Grace is powerful
- Grace is for anyone
- Grace is free
- Grace is life changing

Scripture Reference:

- 2 Kings 5:1-27 (primary passage)
- 2 Kings 6:1-7 (the floating axe head miracle)
- Luke 4:27 (Jesus retelling Naaman's story)

Stories:

- The story of Naaman, the Syrian commander with leprosy who was healed after dipping seven times in the Jordan River
- The nameless servant girl who was kidnapped from Israel but maintained her faith and shared hope with her captors
- Gehazi's deception in taking payment from Naaman and being struck with leprosy as punishment
- The floating axe head miracle demonstrating God's care even for borrowed tools
- Nicky Cruz's conversion story - from violent gang leader who threatened David Wilkerson with a switchblade to evangelist who has preached the gospel for over 60 years
- David Wilkerson leaving his country church to minister to gang members in New York City, founding Teen Challenge
- Ron Dunn's illustration about giving carnival tickets to his son's friends, including an unexpected eighth child, illustrating how we receive grace through relationship with the Son

Scripture Deep Dive

Opening Question:

2 Kings 5:1; Ephesians 2:8–9 – Naaman had an impressive résumé “but” he had leprosy; in what specific ways can our strengths, successes, or “résumé items” hide the fact that, like Naaman, our deepest problem is spiritual (sin) and not circumstantial, and how does Ephesians 2:8–9 expose that?

I. Grace is Shared - “The unnamed servant girl”

1. 2 Kings 5:2–3; 1 Peter 3:15 – Given the servant girl’s situation (young, enslaved, far from home), what does her bold suggestion that Elisha could heal Naaman reveal about her view of God (1 Peter 3:15).

- How should that reshape how you evaluate your own willingness to speak about God in hard seasons?

II. Grace is Powerful - “The king’s panic & Naaman’s resistance”

3. 2 Kings 5:6–8; Jeremiah 17:5–7 – The king of Israel panicked and tore his clothes instead of turning to God; comparing his reaction with Jeremiah 17:5–7.

- What does the king’s response reveal about the difference between trusting human power (politics, position, self) and trusting God’s power?

4. 2 Kings 5:10–12; 1 Corinthians 1:18–25 – Naaman rejected the “simple” command to wash in the Jordan because it didn’t match his expectations; in light of 1 Corinthians 1:18–25...

- What does this show about how God’s power often comes through “foolish” or unimpressive means?
- How should that affect the way you evaluate God’s instructions that seem too simple or beneath you?

III. Grace is for Anyone - “Naaman the foreigner”

5. 2 Kings 5:1, 15–17; Ephesians 2:11–13 – Naaman was a Syrian military commander, an outsider and enemy of Israel, yet he received God’s mercy; according to Ephesians 2:11–13...

- What specific kinds of people today (types of sinners, groups, backgrounds) does this confront in your own thinking as “unlikely” recipients of grace?

6. Luke 4:24–27, 28–30; Romans 10:19–21 – The crowd in Nazareth was enraged when Jesus highlighted that God healed Naaman, a Gentile, and not Israelites.
- Compare the crowd’s reaction with God’s posture toward all people in Romans 10:19–21:
 - What does their anger—and God’s openness—reveal about the danger of spiritual entitlement, and how might that same attitude show up in a church culture today?

IV. Grace is Free - “The refusal of payment and Gehazi’s greed”

7. 2 Kings 5:15–16; Isaiah 55:1–3; Ephesians 2:8–9 – Elisha refused Naaman’s lavish gifts after his healing; when you compare this with Isaiah 55:1–3 and Ephesians 2:8–9...
- How can you diagnose when your spiritual efforts have shifted from grateful obedience to subtle earning?
8. 2 Kings 5:20–27; Galatians 1:6–9 – Gehazi’s greed and lie misrepresented God’s grace as something that could be bought; in light of Galatians 1:6–9...
- How does Gehazi’s action illustrate the seriousness of distorting the message of free grace?
 - What contemporary forms of teaching or practice (prosperity, legalism, performance-based spirituality) most closely resemble what Gehazi did?

V. Grace Changes Everything - “Transformed Naaman”

9. 2 Kings 5:15–17; 2 Corinthians 5:17 – After being healed, Naaman confesses that there is no God but the Lord and resolves to worship Him alone.
- Compared with 2 Corinthians 5:17, what specific evidences in this passage show that Naaman’s heart and allegiance have truly changed, and what kinds of concrete shifts (in worship, loyalty, habits) should you expect to see when grace has genuinely changed someone?

5 Day Devotional

Day 1 – A Great Man with a Greater Problem

Reading: 2 Kings 5:1–7, Romans 3:23

Devotional: Naaman is powerful, successful, respected—“a valiant warrior”— **BUT** he has leprosy. That one “but” cancels out every achievement and exposes a problem he cannot solve. Scripture says all have sinned; no matter our status, skills, or goodness, there is a deeper spiritual disease underneath. Our real problem is not our circumstances, but our separation from God. Like Naaman, we need help that we cannot buy or earn.

Reflection: Ask God to show you where you’ve been relying on your “résumé” (achievements, morality, reputation) instead of His mercy.

Day 2 – Grace Shared by the Least Likely

Reading: 2 Kings 5:2–14, 1 Corinthians 1:26–29

Devotional: A nameless, captive servant girl shares hope with the very man whose people tore her from her home. She believes God can heal, and she is willing to seek the good of those who have given her their worst. Through her small, costly obedience, Naaman is put on a path to encounter God. God delights to use the weak, the overlooked, and the wounded to display His power and kindness.

Reflection: Who is your “Naaman”—someone you naturally resent or avoid but who needs to hear of God’s grace?

Day 3 – A Humbling Wash and a New Heart

Reading: 2 Kings 5:13–19, 2 Corinthians 5:17

Devotional: Naaman almost walks away from healing because God’s method seems beneath him. Yet when he finally obeys, his flesh is restored “like that of a small boy,” and his heart is changed too—he confesses that there is no God but the Lord. True grace doesn’t just fix a problem; it reorients our worship, our loyalties, and our life direction. Humble obedience opens the door to deep transformation.

Reflection: Where is God asking you to do something “simple” or humbling that you’ve been resisting? Ask the Lord to show you where pride is blocking obedience and where you can “put your ‘yes’ on the table.”

Day 4 – When Grace is Distorted

Reading: 2 Kings 5:20–27, Galatians 2:21

Devotional: Gehazi runs after Naaman to get what Elisha refused—turning a free act of God’s grace into a transaction. His greed and lie misrepresent God as a taker instead of a giver. Trying to add a price tag to grace, is not a small error; it strikes at God’s character and the heart of the gospel. We either receive grace as a gift, or we lose it by trying to mix it with earning.

Reflection: Ask the Spirit to show you where you treat God’s favor as something to be bought (by service, giving, performance) instead of received.

Day 5 – God Cares About Borrowed Axe Heads

Reading: 2 Kings 6:1–7, 1 Peter 5:6–7

Devotional: In what seems like a small, almost trivial crisis—losing a borrowed axe head—God works another miracle through Elisha. An iron head that should sink floats to the surface at God’s word. This story reminds us that the same God who heals generals and confronts kings also cares about the ordinary anxieties of students, workers, and families. Nothing is too big for His power or too small for His compassion.

Reflection / Prayer: What “small” concern in your life feels too insignificant to bring to God? Take a moment to name it specifically before Him and pray 1 Peter 5:7: “Lord, I cast this care on You, because You care for me—down to the details.”