

## Lesson 95

# Elisha and the Syrians

God healed Naaman's leprosy and protected Elisha from the Syrians.

# Studying God's Word

## Lesson Time

Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.

Have the students assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, and any items you prepared for this lesson.

## Prayer

This prayer time is designed to help the students begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to encourage them to pray.

We start our Bible lesson with prayer. Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there.

Today let's say prayers of adoration and tell God we love and praise him.

I'll start. Dear God, I love you because . . . (insert personal prayer here).

Pass a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—around the circle, giving all the students an opportunity to pray, or choose a volunteer to stand beside you and pray.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll answer our Bible Truth questions.

I love you prayers—Adoration  
I'm sorry prayers—Confession  
I'm thankful prayers—Thanksgiving  
Please prayers—Supplication

## Bible Truths

These four questions will be repeated each week to help the students learn foundational truths.

Is there more than one true God? No. There is only one true God.  
Who deserves our praise and worship? Only God.  
What word means God cannot sin and hates all sin? Holy.  
God must punish sin because he is what? Just.

## Bible Treasure Hunt

Before Bible Treasure Hunt, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

Each week before class, hide your Bible somewhere in the room. Use different methods each week to keep the students excited about finding the Bible. For example, you might set a timer, play music while the students search, tell students when they are getting warmer and colder, or choose a student to hide the Bible and let you or classmates find it.

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible. God's Word is true, and we can always trust what it says. It's like a great treasure that tells us about who God is and what he has done for us. But where is this treasure? You will have to help me with that. We're going to go on a Bible Treasure Hunt. Somewhere in this room, I've hidden the Bible. When I say, "Go," you will need to look for it. Whoever finds the Bible must bring it back to their seat and hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about today! Explain the method you chose for today. Ready? Set! Go!

K- 1st Lesson continues next.

### **Pre-K Lesson**

### **K-1st Lesson**

### **Pre-K Lesson**

### **Review**

Before class, set up a river by draping a blue sheet over several chairs or a table. See the next section for details.

Refer to Lesson 94 Flip Chart. In our last lesson, we talked about a man who became the next prophet after Elijah. What was his name? Elisha.

God helped Elisha do many miracles so that people would see who the true, all-powerful God is.

What miracle did God do for the widow so her sons wouldn't be taken as slaves? He made her small jar of oil fill all the pots and jars she had borrowed.

The widow was able to sell the oil to pay the money she owed, keep her sons, and buy food for her family.

We also talked about another woman who was kind to Elisha. He prayed that God would give her a son. But then the son died! What miracle did God help Elisha do? Raised the boy from the dead!

In today's lesson, we'll see how God used Elisha to show God's power to some people called the Syrians. These people were enemies who fought with the Israelites and stole from them. Once when they came to Israel, the commander of the Syrian army captured a young girl and took her

home where she became a servant for his wife. But instead of being upset and hating her enemy, the girl chose to serve her new master and to show God's love to him and his family.

## God Heals Naaman

Let's find out what this servant girl's master was like.

2 Kings 5:1

We can read about him in 2 Kings 5:1. Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read the verse.

What was the name of the commander of the Syrian army? Naaman.

Reread verses as necessary for students to hear the answers. Naaman was a great man in his country. The king of Syria liked him because he was brave and won many battles. Naaman was famous and wealthy. But he had one big problem. What does this verse say he was? Reread last phrase. He was a leper.

A leper was someone who had a deadly disease called leprosy. People were very afraid of this disease. Although Naaman was famous, rich, and brave, none of those things could save him from leprosy.

But the Israelite servant girl wanted to help him. So one day, she said to Naaman's wife, "Master Naaman should go and see the prophet in Israel. He can cure Naaman of his leprosy."

What prophet do you think the servant girl was talking about? Elisha.

Naaman's wife was excited to hear that there was a way her husband could be cured. She hurried to tell Naaman about Elisha. Soon Naaman took gifts and journeyed with some of his servants to Israel.

Have an assistant act out the role of Naaman as you continue the lesson. Set up a river by draping a blue sheet over several chairs or a table. Leave room for Naaman to bend down behind the sheet. You may want to use powder on Naaman's face and hands to represent leprosy. Have a moist cloth ready for him to wipe off the powder while behind the sheet. Add props/actions for interest.

Have the assistant enter here and act out what you read about Naaman.

Naaman enters and pretends to knock on Elisha's door. Naaman rode up to Elisha's house with his horses, chariots, soldiers, and servants, looking very important. After all, Naaman was a rich and courageous man coming to visit Elisha! But Elisha didn't even come out to say hello or invite Naaman in. Instead, Elisha sent his servant to deliver a message to Naaman, who stood outside the door waiting.

2 Kings 5:10

Let's read the message Elisha's servant gave to Naaman. Turn toward the actor Naaman as you read 2 Kings 5:10.

What instructions did Naaman have to follow to be cured? Wash in the Jordan River seven times.

That seems pretty simple, but it was not what Naaman was expecting. In fact, Naaman was furious! Naaman acts angry, taps his foot, etc.

Naaman was angry that the healing did not happen as he imagined. He thought Elisha would come out and pray and wave his hand and cure him. But Elisha didn't even talk to him! Instead, Naaman was told to go and wash in the Jordan River.

Naaman looks proud and arrogant. Naaman was a proud Syrian army commander; he didn't want to wash in a river—especially not here in Israel, the land of his enemies.

Naaman was ready to forget the whole thing and go home. Naaman acts frustrated and turns to go, then turns back. Thankfully, he had servants who loved him. The servants understood that Naaman's pride was keeping him from obeying Elisha's instructions. Naaman needed to be humble and obey. He had to have faith that God could heal him.

Naaman listened to his servants, and he went to the Jordan River. Have Naaman walk behind the sheet as if stepping into the river then hold nose and dunk down behind the sheet. He stepped down into the water and dipped down (have students count with you)—one, two, three—but still no change. Wasn't that enough? Naaman looks at his hands and sees no change.

He went down into the water three more times, but his leprosy was still there. On the seventh dunk, Naaman can stay down a little longer for effect and wipe off powder with a cloth before standing back up. Finally, Naaman dunked down once more, and when he came up out of the water the seventh time, he was healed! Naaman looks at his hands and cheers. His leprosy was gone and his skin was as clean and clear as it was when he was a child! Imagine his servants cheering as he came out of the river, completely rid of that horrible disease. Naaman comes out from behind the sheet looking happy. Let's all cheer for Naaman! Have students cheer as Naaman exits. Now Naaman knew that Elisha's God really was the all-powerful, true God.

## God Shows the Syrians Mercy

Let's look at another miracle God did through Elisha to show God's power and mercy to the Syrians.

The king of Syria went to war against Israel. But every time he moved his army somewhere to attack, God told Elisha where they were going. Then Elisha warned the king of Israel so that he would be ready with his army and keep the Syrians from winning.

Of course, this made the king of Syria angry since Elisha kept ruining his battle plans. When the king found out where Elisha was, he commanded, "Get my horses and chariots. We're going to sneak up during the night and surround Elisha!"

In the morning, when Elisha's servant got up and looked outside—guess what he saw. All around the city were enemy soldiers with horses and chariots! They had come for Elisha.

"Master Elisha!" the servant said. "What are we going to do?"

"Do not be afraid," Elisha replied. "God's army is bigger than the enemy army."

But the servant didn't see any army protecting them! So, Elisha prayed, "Oh Lord, let my servant see."

Refer to the Flip Chart. When the servant looked around this time, he saw God's angel army with horses and chariots of fire on the mountain protecting Elisha!

Then Elisha prayed that God would cause the Syrian army to become blind. And God answered his prayer! Elisha led the blind enemy army to the king of Israel. When Elisha prayed for the men to see again, they saw that they had been captured! Elisha told the king to give them something to eat and send them home. Whew! That was close. They could've all been killed.

Even though these men were sent to harm Elisha, they were shown mercy. That means God did not punish them for what they did but showed kindness instead. The miracle of making them all blind not only protected Elisha but also showed the Syrian army the power of God.

It's true that God cared for Israel, but he also cared about the people who lived in other places, like Syria. God did miracles through Elisha to show the Syrians that he is the all-powerful and merciful God.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game below.

## **K-1st Lesson**

### **Review**

Before class, set up a river by draping a blue sheet over several chairs or a table. See the next section for details.

Refer to Lesson 94 Flip Chart. In our last lesson, we talked about a man who became the next prophet after Elijah. What was his name? Elisha.

God helped Elisha do many miracles so that people would see who the true, all-powerful God is.

What miracle did God do for the widow so her sons wouldn't be taken as slaves? He made her small jar of oil fill all the pots and jars she had borrowed.

The widow was able to sell the oil to pay the money she owed, keep her sons, and buy food for her family.

We also talked about another woman who made a special guest room for Elisha to stay in as he traveled. What did Elisha do to repay her for her kindness? He prayed for her to have a son.

God gave the woman a son, but then the son died! What miracle did God help Elisha do? Raised the boy from the dead!

In today's lesson, we'll see how God used Elisha to show God's power to the people of a country called Syria. The Syrians were enemies who came and stole from the Israelites and fought battles against them. Once when they came to Israel, the commander of the Syrian army captured a young girl and took her back to Syria where she became a servant for his wife. But instead of being upset and hating her enemy, the girl chose to serve her new master and to show God's love to him and his family.

## God Heals Naaman

Let's find out what this servant girl's master was like.

2 Kings 5:1

We can read about him in 2 Kings 5:1. Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read the verse.

What was the name of the commander of the Syrian army? Naaman.

Reread verses as necessary for students to hear the answers.

What kind of man was Naaman? He was a great man; he was a mighty man of valor.

Naaman was a great man in his country. The king of Syria liked him because he was brave and won many battles. Naaman was famous and wealthy.

But he had one big problem. What was he? Reread last phrase. He was a leper.

A leper was someone who had a deadly disease called leprosy. This horrible skin disease didn't have a cure, and people were very afraid of it. Everyone would stay away from those who got it.

Although Naaman was famous, courageous, and rich, none of those things could save him from leprosy. But the Israelite servant girl wanted to help him.

So one day, the girl said to Naaman's wife, "Master Naaman should go and see the prophet near my home in Israel. He would cure Naaman of his leprosy."

What prophet do you think the servant girl was talking about? Elisha.

Naaman's wife was excited to hear that there was a way her husband could be cured. She hurried to tell Naaman about Elisha. Soon Naaman

gathered expensive gifts to take with him and journeyed with some of his servants to Israel.

Have an assistant enter here and act out what you read about Naaman.

Have an assistant act out the role of Naaman as you continue the lesson. Before class, set up a river by draping a blue sheet over several chairs or a table. Leave room for Naaman to bend down behind the sheet. You may want to use powder on Naaman's face and hands to represent leprosy. Have a moist cloth ready for him to wipe off the powder while behind the sheet. Add props/actions for interest.

Naaman enters and pretends to knock on Elisha's door. Naaman rode up to Elisha's house with his horses, chariots, soldiers, and servants, looking very important. After all, Naaman was a rich and courageous man coming to visit Elisha! But Elisha didn't even come out to say hello or invite Naaman in. Instead, Elisha sent his servant to deliver a message to Naaman, who stood outside the door waiting.

## 2 Kings 5:10

Let's read the message Elisha's servant gave to Naaman. Turn toward the actor Naaman as you read 2 Kings 5:10.

What instructions did Naaman have to follow to be cured? Wash in the Jordan River seven times.

That seems pretty simple, but it was not what Naaman was expecting. In fact, Naaman was furious! Naaman acts angry, taps his foot, etc.

Naaman was angry that the healing did not happen as he imagined. He thought Elisha would come out and pray and wave his hand and cure him. But Elisha didn't even talk to him! Instead, he was told to go and wash in the Jordan River.

Naaman looks proud and arrogant. Naaman was a proud Syrian army commander; he didn't want to wash in a river—especially not here in Israel, the land of his enemies.

Naaman was ready to forget the whole thing and go home. Naaman acts frustrated and turns to go, then turns back. Thankfully, he had servants who loved him. The servants understood that Naaman's pride was keeping him from obeying Elisha's instructions. Naaman needed to be humble and obey. He had to have faith that God could heal him.

Naaman listened to his servants and went to the Jordan River. Have Naaman walk behind the sheet as if stepping into the river then hold nose and dunk down behind the sheet. He stepped down into the water and dipped down (have students count with you)—one, two, three—but still no change. Wasn't that enough? Naaman looks at his hands and sees no change.



He went down into the water three more times, but his leprosy was still there. On the seventh dunk, Naaman can stay down a little longer for effect and wipe off powder with a cloth before standing back up. Finally, Naaman dunked down once more, and when he came up out of the water the seventh time, he was healed! Naaman looks at his hands and cheers. His leprosy was gone and his skin was as clean and clear as it was when he was a child! Imagine his servants cheering as he came out of the river, completely rid of that horrible disease. Naaman comes out from behind the sheet looking happy. Let's all cheer for Naaman! Have students cheer as Naaman exits. Now Naaman knew that Elisha's God really was the all-powerful, true God.

## God Shows the Syrians Mercy

Let's look at another miracle God did through Elisha to show God's power and mercy to the people of Syria.

The king of Syria went to war against Israel. But every time he moved his army somewhere to attack, God told Elisha where they were going. Then Elisha would warn the king of Israel so that he would be ready with his army and keep the Syrians from winning.

Of course, this made the king of Syria angry since Elisha kept ruining his battle plans. When the king's servants told him where Elisha was, the king commanded, "Get my horses and chariots. We're going to sneak up during the night and surround Elisha!"

In the morning, when Elisha's servant got up and looked outside—guess what he saw. All around the city were enemy soldiers with horses and chariots! They had come for Elisha.

"Master Elisha!" the servant said. "What are we going to do?"

2 Kings 6:16–17

Let's find out what Elisha did from 2 Kings 6. Read verse 16.

What was the first thing Elisha said to his servant? Do not what? Do not be afraid.

Elisha said that they had a bigger army than the enemies did. But the servant didn't see anyone protecting them!

Who was Elisha talking about? Who was with them? Listen to the next verse. Read verse 17.

When Elisha prayed for the Lord to open his servant's eyes, what did the young man see on the mountain? Horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

Refer to the Flip Chart. Wow! God let Elisha and his servant see a mighty angel army protecting them with horses and fiery chariots! That would be an awesome sight.

Elisha prayed that God would cause the enemy Syrian army to become blind. And God answered his prayer! Elisha led the blind soldiers to the king of Israel. Then Elisha prayed for the blindness to be gone. When the men could see again, they saw that they had been captured! Uh oh—they could all be killed.

Elisha told the king to give them something to eat and send them home. Whew! That was close. Even though these men were sent to harm Elisha, they were shown mercy. That means God did not punish them for what they did but showed kindness instead. The miracle of making them all blind not only protected Elisha but also showed the Syrian army the power of God.

It's true that God cared for Israel, but he cared about the people who lived in other places, too. God did miracles through Elisha, like healing Naaman and blinding the army, to show the Syrians that he is the all-powerful and merciful God.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game.

## **Lesson Review**

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.

## Limited License to Reproduce

A limited, non-exclusive, non-transferable, nonsublicensable license is hereby granted to a single local church or organization to print copies of the PDF materials in the Teacher Digital Resources if 1) you are the original purchaser; 2) you are using the copies for noncommercial purposes (such as for teaching in class) exclusively within your single local church or organization (multi-campus churches, and national/regional denominations are not covered under this license); and 3) you follow the instructions provided in the curriculum pertaining to the printable materials.

This license is for the specific purchaser of the product and does not include affiliated groups or organizations, or other churches or groups in the same denomination as the purchaser, not identified as the actual purchaser. There is no limit to the number of printed copies for use within the single local church or organization which is the actual purchaser. None of the material in this curriculum may be reproduced for any commercial promotion, advertising, or sale of a product or service, or to share with any other persons, churches, groups, or organizations.

The media (audio/video) portions are copyrighted and duplication is prohibited. This license is for materials in the Teacher Digital Resources only and does NOT include reproduction rights for pre-printed teacher books, student guides, student take home sheets, or posters, except on an emergency basis when purchased quantities are not sufficient for a given week.

## Bible Version

Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.