

True Strength in Turbulent Times
“Curing the Universal Sickness”
Growth Group Discussion
2 Kings 5

Opening Questions (get everyone involved in discussion):

- In this week’s story, it is a small “spot” (see v. 11) which leads the central character to seek healing. What is one challenge in your life, past or present, that has caused you to seek God?
- Begin with prayer. Take at least 30 seconds to be silent, clearing your minds of distractions and preparing to hear from God’s word.

1. For crucial background on Aram and Israel, read the following verses:

- 1 Kings 11:25, 15:18, and 19:15
- 1 Kings 20:1, 20-23, and 28-29
- How would you describe the relationship between the two nations at this point?

2. Read 2 Kings 5:1, then discuss the following.

- What can you gather about Naaman as a person?
- What impact would leprosy have had on Naaman?
- Pastor Josh summarized the Old Testament regulations about leprosy, suggesting that it that the reveal our “spiritual leprosy.” Our spiritual leprosy includes a distorted view of God, an uncleanness of heart, and a propensity to harm relationships.
 - How did you feel about this part of the sermon?
 - Do you feel that this is an accurate representation of the human condition? Why or why not?
 - What has caused you to recognize this condition in yourself?
 - In what ways does our spiritual leprosy compare with Naaman’s physical leprosy?

3. READ 2 Kings 5:2-13 and discuss.

- What do you notice about how Naaman goes about seeking healing? In what things does he hope?
- What do you notice about how God orchestrates people and circumstances to bring about Naaman’s healing?
- What do you think God is trying to teach Naaman? How is God interested in more than just his physical condition?

4. READ 2 Kings 5:14-19a and discuss.

- Why do you think Naaman tries to give Elisha money after being healed? Why does Elisha refuse to accept it? (Might Naaman have taken some credit for God's healing work in his life?)
- In what ways do you sometimes try to take credit for God's grace?
- What evidence do you see here that Naaman has experienced spiritual healing, in addition to physical healing?
- On Sunday, Pastor Josh pointed out several things that changed about Naaman, which could also change about you when you receive God's grace as pure gift. They are below. How have you experienced these? In what way do you still need to see these changes happen?
 - It changes your human relationships, by humbling you
 - It gives you willingness to take heat for what you believe
 - It makes you radically generous.
- In what way is the servant girl (vv. 2-3) a picture of what Jesus would do, in accomplishing our spiritual healing?

5. READ 2 Kings 5:19b-27 and discuss.

- What do you think motivates Gehazi to go after Naaman?
- What further evidence do you see here that Naaman has been truly changed?
- Why do you think that Naaman's leprosy falls on Gehazi? What symbolism is being conveyed here?

6. Concluding application:

- At this point in your journey, how easy or difficult is it to accept that you need God's deep, healing touch?
- How easy or difficult is it for you to accept that you can do nothing to merit this touch, and that it is all a gift of grace?
- Do you think there is any action step that God is prompting you to take in response to this study?

PRAYER:

- Take time to share about and pray for any other needs that exist in your group.
- As you pray, praise God for his lavish grace. Pray for one another to be changed and healed in the ways you have discussed.