

## Naaman is Healed

Today we've been talking about our faith and how we can make it our own through our own experiences with prayer. And how sometimes it's through these experiences that God can surprise us by answering our prayers in an unexpected way. We may ask for something we want or need in prayer, but God might answer our prayer in an unexpected way that is ultimately His plan.

In the Bible, we can find lots of examples of the unexpected ways God answers prayer. In fact, that happened to a guy a long time ago. This guy was trusted by his king and respected by one of God's prophets, Elisha, despite having an awful skin disease called leprosy. That guy's name was Naaman.

Let's check out his story as we listen to a reading from the second book of Kings...

This is Naaman!

(Hand Naaman the "Hello! My name is: Sticker.)

Naaman say, "Hello!" (Wait for response.)

Naaman was the commander of the Syrian army and was highly respected by the king of Syria.

He was a great soldier. (Hand him the sword.)

But he suffered from a dreaded skin disease. (Place red dots all over his face. And Take the sword away.)

But despite having a disease that usually made you an outcast, in his country, Naaman was the king's most trusted commander. On one of their raids against Israel, the Syrians had carried off a little Israelite girl, who became a servant of Naaman's wife. Because Naaman was a nice guy, the young servant girl told Naaman that there was a prophet in Israel who could heal him of his leprosy.

When Naaman heard this, he went to the king (Naaman, please walk over to your king.) and told him what the girl had said. The king said, (Cue "King" to read his line.) **"Go to the king of Israel and take this letter to him."** Look, the King is handing Naaman a letter.

So Naaman set out to the King of Israel. The letter that he took read: "This letter will introduce my officer, Naaman. I want you to cure him of his disease."

Naaman, I need you to travel to the king of Israel and hand him the letter. When the King of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes in dismay and exclaimed, (Cue the King of Israel to read his line.) **"How can the king of Syria expect me to cure this man? Does he think I am God, with the power of life and death? I think he is trying to start a fight with me!"**

When the prophet, Elisha, heard what had happened, he sent word to the king. He told him not to be upset and asked the king to send the man to him.

So Naaman hopped on his horse and stopped at the entrance to Elisha's house. When he arrived at the house, Elisha sent a servant out to talk to Naaman. The servant told Naaman to go and wash himself seven times in the Jordan River, and he would be completely cured of his disease.

But Naaman left in a rage. Look how angry he looks. This was too simple. This was not how he had thought this would go. Then Naaman said, *(Cue Naaman to read his line.)* **"I thought you would at least come out to me and pray to the Lord God, wave your hand over my diseased spots, and cure me! Besides, aren't there other rivers better than any river in Israel? I could have washed in them and been cured."**

Naaman had servants with him... *(pause)* ... uh-oh, we are out of actors. *(pull 2 kids out of the audience.)* Um, kids, you be Naaman's servants. I'll give you your lines. Repeat after me. **'If the prophet had instructed you ... *(pause for kids to repeat)* to do some great or hard thing ... *(pause)* surely you would have done it. *(Pause.)* Then why shouldn't you ... *(pause)* do something simple, *(pause)* like go wash in the river?' *(Pause.)***  
Good job, kids!

Anyway, Naaman was convinced. He went and washed in the river. (Helper will spray Naaman with the spray bottle filled with water.)

*(Catechist say:)* Hey! Hey! What are you doing? *(Helper says:)* Well, I can't dunk him in a river. *(Keep spraying.)* Now hold still.

Naaman obeyed Elisha's message, bathed himself in the Jordan River seven times, and was

completely healed of the disease! Let's erase all of the sores and blood and oozing pus! God be praised!" (Take dots off of Naaman.)

He returned to Elisha with all his men and said, (Cue Naaman to read his line.) **"Now I know that there is only one God. The God of Israel: so please, sir, accept a gift from me."**

Elisha answered (Cue Elisha to read his line.) **"By the living God who I serve, I cannot accept a gift."**

Naaman insisted that he should accept it, but Elisha would not. From now on Naaman would not worship any god except the Lord God. So, Elisha sent Naaman away in peace, ...

Naaman... though an outcast because of a disease, built trust and was healed even though it was different from how he planned.

The Word of the Lord.

**Kids: Thanks Be to God!**