

## Naaman's Leprosy Is Healed

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### **Scene Summary**

“Naaman's Leprosy Is Healed ” shows the effect of the testimony of a servant girl. Scenes include: Captain Naaman speaking to his troops...the Hebrew maid tells the captain's wife about a great prophet...Naaman's king gives him a letter to the Hebrew king...Naaman's servants pack gifts and the party departs in chariots...he meets the Hebrew king...Naaman is angry when Elisha's servant tells him to bathe in the muddy Jordan...but when he does, his leprosy is healed...he thanks Elisha and offers him gifts.

### **Scripture**

(2 Ki 5:1-15 NIV) Now Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through him the LORD had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy. {2} Now bands from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. {3} She said to her mistress, "If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." {4} Naaman went to his master and told him what the girl from Israel had said. {5} "By all means, go," the king of Aram replied. "I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So Naaman left, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold and ten sets of clothing. {6} The letter that he took to the king of Israel read: "With this letter I am sending my servant Naaman to you so that you may cure him of his leprosy." {7} As soon as the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his robes and said, "Am I God? Can I kill and bring back to life? Why does this fellow send someone to me to be cured of his leprosy? See how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me!" {8} When Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his robes, he sent him this message: "Why have you torn your robes? Have the man come to me and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel." {9} So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house. {10} Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, "Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed." {11} But Naaman went away angry and said, "I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy. {12} Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than any of the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?" So he turned and went off in a

rage. {13} Naaman's servants went to him and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, 'Wash and be cleansed!'" {14} So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy. {15} Then Naaman and all his attendants went back to the man of God. He stood before him and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel. Please accept now a gift from your servant."

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## ***Players***

- **Narrator** – The play's "catechist" or teacher, should be a good reader with a clear voice.
- **Naaman** – A strong soldier, a person in authority.
- **Naaman's Wife** – Listens carefully and wants the best for her husband.
- **Servant girl** – Played with compassion for those in charge.
- **King of Syria** – A person in command, wanting to help others.
- **King of Israel** – A bold and arrogant person, does not care for anyone.
- **Elisha** – A small, but important part at the end, played as an older person.
- **Elisha's Servant** – A person always near Elisha, watching and listening.
- **Messenger** – Running, out of breath, but with a clear voice.
- **Soldiers** – A person that commands respect and authority.

## ***Special Props***

- Normal items from the prop box such as cloaks, veils, robes and headdresses.
- Bandages for Naaman's arms.

## ***Script – Naaman's Leprosy Is Healed***

[Opening scene is at the home of Naaman]

**Narrator:** Captain Naaman was the brave commander of the Syrian army. He led his soldiers into many battles and usually they won. But, Captain Naaman had a very serious problem. He had a disease called leprosy. [pause] One day a servant girl spoke to Naaman's wife.

**Servant girl:** In my home country there is a prophet that can make Captain Naaman well. If only the master would go to see him.

**Narrator:** Naaman's wife told her husband what the servant girl had said.

**Naaman:** There is no cure for leprosy. You know that.

**Naaman's wife:** But the Hebrew prophet has power from God. Why don't you go see him?

[Scene change to the throne room of the King of Syria]

**Narrator:** Later, Naaman told the king about the Hebrew prophet.

**Naaman:** [to the king] They say he has great power from God.

**King of Syria:** I think you should go to see him immediately. Perhaps he can cure you. I will give you a letter to the Hebrew king.

**Narrator:** So, early one morning, Captain Naaman, a few soldiers and servants got ready for the trip to Israel. The servants packed Naaman's gifts for the prophet. The gifts were money in gold and silver, plus 10 beautiful garments that were to be worn on special occasions. When Naaman arrived in the Israelite city, he went straight to the king's palace. A servant greeted the men.

[Scene change to the throne room of the King of Israel]

**Naaman:** I have a letter from the king of Syria to the king of Israel.

**Narrator:** The king of Israel read the letter very slowly.

**King of Israel:** [reading out loud] I have sent you the captain of my army, Naaman, so that you can cure him of his leprosy. [angry] Does the king of Syria think that I am God that I can cure this man's sickness? He is only trying to start a quarrel with me. When I don't cure his captain, he will start a war with us. [distressed] What shall I do?

**Narrator:** About this time a man arrived at the palace with a message for the king.

**Messenger:** God's prophet Elisha has heard about Naaman's visit. He wonders why you are so upset your majesty? He asks that you send Naaman to him that he may know that there is a prophet of God in Israel.

**Narrator:** Naaman and his servants hurried to Elisha's home. But Elisha did not speak to Naaman. He sent his servant to Naaman with a message.

**Servant:** Elisha says that if you will go to the Jordan River and wash seven times, your leprosy will be cured.

**Naaman:** [angry] If he is such a great prophet, why doesn't he come out and call on his God. Why doesn't he wave his hands over my sores and cure me? The rivers in my country are cleaner than the muddy Jordan.

**Soldier:** But Captain, if the prophet had asked you to do some great thing, wouldn't you do it? He has asked you to do a simple thing, just to wash in the river. Why not try it?

**Naaman:** Well, you may be right. Let's go to the river.

**Narrator:** So, Naaman went to the Jordan River and washed in its muddy waters. But his illness was not cured. He washed again and again, still nothing happened. But when he had washed seven times, he looked at his arms.

**Naaman:** [excited] My leper spots are gone! I'm cured!

**Narrator:** Naaman hurried back to Elisha's house. This time Elisha came out to see him.

**Naaman:** [still excited] My leprosy is gone. Now I know that your God is the true God. I want to give you some presents.

**Elisha:** I don't want your gifts Naaman.

**Naaman:** From now on, I will serve only the true God.

**Elisha:** Go in peace.

The End

## ***Supplemental information***

Naaman was commander-in-chief of the army of the Syrian king Ben-hadad. Naaman was a brave man and a good commander. Under his leadership, the Syrian army won many victories.

The Syrians raided some of the cities in Israel, and sometimes brought back captives. On one raid, a young Israelite girl was one of the captives brought to Syria. Perhaps Naaman had led the raid, for the girl worked as a helper to Naaman's wife.

Naaman was a very important man in the land of Syria. He was next in importance to the king himself. But, even though he was an important man, Naaman had a terrible disease called leprosy.

One form of leprosy begins on the skin and destroys the sensation of the nerves so that a person loses his sense of feeling in the areas where the sores are located. After a time, the flesh is effected, as are the body's joints. The disease deforms the body.

In Old Testament days there was no known cure for leprosy. The brave Naaman must have been very discouraged because he knew he could never be well again. Because he was desperate, he believed the slave-girl. He was even willing to go to Israel, the enemy of his country, to see if the prophet there could cure the disease.

Elisha had no medicine or power of his own to cure leprosy. It was God's power that made Naaman well again. It is no wonder that Naaman came to believe that Elisha's God is the true God.

## ***Reflection questions***

- Naaman was the captain of the army of the land of Syria. He was a very important man. But Naaman had a big problem. What was it?
- A young Hebrew girl worked for Naaman and his wife. She felt sorry for Naaman. She remembered that there was a man back in her home country who was called a prophet. She knew this man had power from God and could make Naaman well. Naaman's wife thought he should go see this man. In those days, there was no medicine to cure the disease of leprosy. Naaman told the king about the prophet in Israel. Did the king think Naaman should take a long trip? What did the king give to Naaman?
- Naaman took soldiers with him to protect him from robbers. He took servants too. What did Naaman take to give the prophet?
- Because Naaman was a very important man, he went first to the king of Israel. Perhaps he did not know the name of the prophet, or where to find him. What did he give the king?
- The king read the letter. What did the letter say?

- The king of Israel was very angry. What did he think the king of Syria was trying to do? In these days there were many wars. It was no wonder the king thought that Syria wanted to start a war with Israel.
- A messenger came to see the king. Who sent him? What did he tell the king? Are you surprised that the king did not think of God's prophet and send Naaman to him? Perhaps the king did not serve the true God.
- Elisha did not come out to see the great captain. He sent his servant to give Naaman a message. What did the servant tell Naaman?
- Why was Naaman so angry? One reason was that he had expected Elisha the prophet to talk with him and perhaps touch him and make him well. What was another reason Naaman was angry?
- Naaman's servant talked to him and Naaman changed his mind. What did his servant say to him? Do you think the servant was right?
- Why do you think Naaman's sickness was not cured after he washed only one or two times? After Naaman had obeyed and washed seven times, his sickness was cured. How do you think Naaman felt?
- Naaman went back to thank Elisha. He tried to pay him for curing him. Naaman offered Elisha silver and gold and 10 beautiful robes to wear on special occasions. Why do you think Elisha refused to take the gifts? What did Naaman promise he would do? Naaman promised that from that day on he would serve the true God.