



LESSON 40

3rd and 4th Grade

Principle: Humility, faith, and compassion.

Bible Character(s): Elisha, Naaman

Scripture Reference: 2 Kings 5



PERSONAL PREPARATION: Before this weekend, please read through 2 Kings 5.

Naaman (nay-mun) was a great soldier and a well-respected leader. He had a skin disease, which some translations say was leprosy. His wife's assistant, an Israelite servant girl, told him to go see the prophet Elisha in Samaria. She believed God could heal Naaman through Elisha. Naaman went to Israel to see Elisha, but he initially balked at Elisha's instructions because they were not what he expected; he responded out of pride. Elisha told him to wash himself seven times in the Jordan River. Naaman's traveling companions provided wise counsel and persuaded Naaman to follow Elisha's instructions; he was healed through his humility, obedience, and faith. How do you struggle with pride, instead of being humble and having faith in what God is doing? What steps do you need to take to turn from your pride, humble yourself before God, and trust in His plan? Do you need to seek and listen to the counsel of others? Spend some time in prayer for God to reveal any pride in your heart and to repent of it.

PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival, meet their parents, and welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

Friends Worksheet (1 per camper)

Supplies:

Worksheet - "Friends" side (1 per camper)

Hand out the worksheets and have campers complete the "Friends" side. They'll use the other side in an activity later in the lesson.



BIG GROUP TIME - 35-40 minutes

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts - fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting them from their worship of God.

*Take your cabin flag to Big Group.

The Bridge to Small Group

Today, we will examine the concepts of pride and humility as we look at Naaman's response to Elisha's instructions. We will identify areas of pride in our own lives and learn how we can turn our pride into humility before God and have faith in Him.



SMALL GROUP TIME - 25-30 minutes

Getting Started

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

What did you learn about in Big Group? What did the Camp Grace Sing-along leader think about himself and the award he had won? (He was proud, thought he was the best singer, and that everyone wanted his autograph.) **What did he think about allowing a child to lead songs with him?** (He didn't think a child could help him at all.) **How did he change his mind after hearing the story of Naaman?** (He realized he was wrong and prideful, that a child could do many things.)

Who did we learn about last week? (Elijah.) **Why was he tired and discouraged?** (Because Queen Jezebel wanted him dead for standing up against King Ahab and the prophets of Baal. Elijah lost sight of God's faithfulness and love for him.) **Was God angry at Elijah?** (No, God could have been angry, but instead, He gave Elijah strength and encouragement. Then God said Elisha would become the next prophet after Elijah.) **What did Elisha help Elijah do?** (He helped Elijah make good decisions. God gave Elisha as a friend to Elijah to help him stay on the right track.)

Today, we're going to read from 2 Kings 5 to see how God uses Elisha in the life of a man named Naaman. Elisha has taken Elijah's place as God's prophet. Naaman was the commander of the Aramean army. He was a well-respected leader, but he had a skin disease called leprosy. In Naaman's time, people with leprosy were usually shunned by the community. That means that healthy people were afraid to be around them, so they had to live in a separate place for people with leprosy and other diseases.

Let's read about this story in the Bible in 2 Kings 5 [NLT].

2 Kings 5:2-3

2 At this time Aramean raiders had invaded the land of Israel, and among their captives was a young girl who had been given to Naaman's wife as a maid. 3 One day the girl said to her mistress, "I wish my master would go to see the prophet in Samaria. He would heal him of his leprosy."

What can you see about the young girl from this passage? Did she have faith in God? (Allow responses.) Yes, she had incredible faith in God. She showed courage to speak out to the woman she was serving. She believed in God's power and faithfulness to heal Naaman. This girl was probably around the same age as each of you. Do you think you would have had the courage to speak out for God if you were in her shoes? God can use each one of you to show His power and glory, even though you are young. What are some things that God calls you to do, as children, that show your faith in Him? (Telling others about Jesus and what He did for you; being friends with kids at school that seem a little different or that no one else likes; obeying your parents even when you don't feel like it; etc.) Doing the things God wants you to do brings glory to Him.

Naaman went to his king, the king of Aram, and told him what the young girl had said. The king of Aram instructed him to go visit the prophet, so Naaman went.

Let's continue reading the Bible to see what happened.

2 Kings 5:9-12

9 So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and waited at the door of Elisha's house. 10 But Elisha sent a messenger out to him with this message: "Go and wash yourself seven times in the Jordan River. Then your skin will be restored, and you will be healed of your leprosy."

11 But Naaman became angry and stalked away. "I thought he would certainly come out to meet me!" he said. "I expected him to wave his hand over the leprosy and call on the name of the LORD his God and heal me! 12 Aren't the rivers of Damascus, the Abana and the Pharpar, better than any of the rivers of Israel? Why shouldn't I wash in them and be healed?" So Naaman turned and went away in a rage.

Why do you think Naaman was angry? (Allow responses.) Naaman was a very important man in his country. He was used to people treating him like a celebrity. Did Elisha go meet Naaman when he came to his house? No, he sent a messenger to talk to Naaman. This made Naaman angry because he thought he was more important than other people. He thought Elisha should talk to him face-to-face. Naaman was prideful; he thought he was better than everyone else. He expected a big cleansing ceremony to show everyone how great he was, but instead Elisha asked him to do a small thing: wash himself in a river seven times.

Verse Scramble



The purpose is to emphasize the importance of humility over pride.

Supplies:

Set of verse pieces (1 set per bin)

Scramble the cards on the table. Then, as a class, unscramble the pieces to put the verse together in the correct order. "Pride leads to disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom." (Teachers, please clip these cards back together after the activity for the next class/storage.)

Tie It Together



What does this verse say? “Pride leads to disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.” Do you know what disgrace means? (Allow responses.) Another word for disgrace is dishonor. Disgrace and dishonor mean being without honor or respect and covered with shame. So this verse is telling us that when we are prideful, it leads to having no honor or respect and instead being covered in shame. But if we are humble, we gain wisdom. Why do you think we gain wisdom by being humble? (Allow responses.) Being humble means to put others above yourself. Jesus was our best example of what it means to be humble; He gave up His life as a sacrifice for our sake. He loved us more than He loved Himself. When we are humble, we begin to understand more about what it means to be like Jesus and how to live like Him. We learn how to love others more than ourselves. This is how we gain wisdom. God wants us to put Him first and to desire to live like Jesus did.

Let’s continue reading the Bible to see what happened next in 2 Kings.

2 Kings 5:13-17

13 But his officers tried to reason with him and said, “Sir, if the prophet had told you to do something very difficult, wouldn’t you have done it? So you should certainly obey him when he says simply, ‘Go and wash and be cured!’” 14 So Naaman went down to the Jordan River and dipped himself seven times, as the man of God had instructed him. And his skin became as healthy as the skin of a young child’s, and he was healed!

15 Then Naaman and his entire party went back to find the man of God. They stood before him, and Naaman said, “Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel. So please accept a gift from your servant.”

16 But Elisha replied, “As surely as the LORD lives, whom I serve, I will not accept any gifts.” And though Naaman urged him to take the gift, Elisha refused.

17 Then Naaman said, “All right, but please allow me to load two of my mules with earth from this place, and I will take it back home with me. From now on I will never again offer burnt offerings or sacrifices to any other god except the LORD.

What did Naaman’s officers do? (Allow responses.) They showed Naaman that his response was prideful and wrong. Did they think Naaman would have obeyed if the directions had been hard? (Allow responses.) Yes, they thought he would have listened to Elisha if the directions were hard. They told him he should follow Elisha’s small, simple instructions because that was much easier than having to do something hard. Do you remember how faithful the young girl was to tell Naaman about Elisha? That seemed like a small thing as well, yet it had a huge impact on many people. Naaman responded with pride to the instructions from Elisha, but he became humble after his officers told him that he should obey the instructions.

Humility means that we do not think of ourselves as more important than anyone else; we put others’ needs before our own. When we are humble, we are willing to obey God and trust that His way is

best, even when we do not understand it. Naaman humbled himself and obeyed what God wanted him to do by following Elisha's instructions. Naaman was faithful in the small act of washing himself seven times in the river, and God was faithful to heal him of his skin disease. Let's do an activity that helps us understand the difference between being prideful and being humble in situations you might face every day.

Pride and Humility



The purpose is to help the campers understand the difference between pride and humility.

Supplies:

Characteristic guide (2 per bin)

Read a characteristic to the group. If the description is prideful, everyone should stand up with their hands on their hips. If the response is humble, everyone should sit quietly with hands folded. (If you have extra time at the end of the lesson, come back to this activity and discuss what the opposite response for each thing would be, or act them out both ways.)

Tie It Together



Can you relate to any of those cards? (Allow responses.) Maybe some of those examples have happened in your lives before. Can you think of an example when you have been proud? How did you act in that situation? How did other people involved react? (Allow responses.) When we are prideful, we think that we are more important than other people. We think we should get what we want. We think we should be able to act however we want to act. We do not put others above ourselves. Pride is something that takes our eyes off of God and instead turns them onto us. Pride keeps us from learning to live like Jesus; it keeps us from experiencing the life God offers us.

Can you describe a time when you have been humble? How did you act? How did other people react? (Allow responses.) When we are humble, we put other people above ourselves because we do not see ourselves as more important than others. We choose other people's needs before our own, even when it means we do not get what we want. We love other people more than we love ourselves. In this way, we learn to live like Jesus.

Humility, Faith, and Compassion



The purpose is to study what the Bible says about humility, faith, and compassion.

Supplies:

Worksheet - "Humility, Faith, and Compassion" side (1 per camper)

Have campers turn to the "Humility, Faith, and Compassion" side of the worksheet. You can go through the worksheet together as a class or have campers do it individually.

Tie It Together



God wants us to be humble, faithful, and compassionate. He wants us to be humble so we can learn to be wise and live like Jesus. He wants us to have faith in who He is as our creator, in the plan He has for us, and in what He can do in our lives. He wants us to love others like He does; that shows compassion. He wants us to become more like Christ. He will help us to be humble, faithful, and love others if we ask Him.

Prayer Time

Spend some time in prayer to close small group time. Lord, we want to be like Jesus, but we can't do that without your help. Help us to be humble, faithful, and compassionate to others. Amen.



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