

Adventures with GOD!

ELISHA AND NAAMAN (C.2.FALL.10)

Biblical Reference	2 Kings 5:1-15
Key Verse	Proverbs 3:5
Key Concept	Miracles happen when I have faith and I am willing to trust and obey God.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss some details about leprosy. 2. Dramatize the story of Elisha and Naaman. 3. Say today's memory verse and explain what it means to them today.

Life Application

Today the children will hear a story about the faith of a child and a soldier who learned only that through trust and obedience to God they could experience a miracle. However, sometimes there are obstacles that prevent God from working miracles, such as pride, anger, unconfessed sin and disobedience. These things may prevent the miracles that God wants to do in our lives. This week the children will express their confidence in recognizing God has the power to do great, wonderful and extraordinary miracles of healing.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Craft	Paper, crayons	10 minutes
Bible Exploration	Bible, illustrations	10 minutes
Dialogue	See instructions	10 minutes
Verse	See instructions	10 minutes
Activity	Booklets, pencils, bibles	10 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

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INSTRUCTIONS

My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review: As children enter take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials on the Covchurch.org website in the same place as the Adventures with God sessions.

Opening Prayer: Gather children around a candle. Light the candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them palms up as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

Prayer Example: Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen

(For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer)

Bible Reading: Explain that as we read the Bible we do so first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out-stretched, palms up to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read the biblical reference for the day (2 Kings 5:1-15) two times and ask children to respond.

Question examples: What did you notice in this passage? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn't understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you through the story?

Activity: Give the children a copy of the worksheet on pages 5-6. The information found here will provide background for the Bible story they will study today. Let them know they will be helping to teach the story in 2 Kings 5:1-15. Have them read the paragraph and then fill in the blanks in the sentences.

Bible Exploration: If possible, invite a few adults or youth from your church to help to act out the story today (2 Kings 5:1-15). A person can play the role of Naaman, even using skin cream or white face paint to simulate leprosy spots. A girl from the class can play the role of the girl and another youth or adult can play the role of Elisha. To act it out, you can read it directly out of Scripture or have them use their own words based on the Scripture. If you cannot get helpers, perhaps the children themselves want to act it out.

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Dialogue: Ask reflective questions, “I wonder what Naaman felt about himself as he looked in the mirror?” “I wonder if he ever imagined that he would be cured from his disease?” “I wonder what the little girl who had been taken captive felt as she thought about Naaman?” “I wonder why the little girl would even care about Naaman being well?” “I wonder what would have happened if Naaman wouldn’t have trusted God to act through Elisha?” Have the children talk about what it was that almost kept Naaman from being made well. What did God require of Naaman? Is it easy or hard to trust God, why?

Verse: Use some of the activities at the end of the material to teach the verses. Have the children express what this verse means to them today.

Activity: Continue adding information to their booklets:

Tasks: 2 Kings 5:6

Miracle: 2 Kings 5:13-14

Problems: 2 Kings 5:1

Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:

G: God's Word: What is the story? (Give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story).

R: Relationships: Is there anything in today's Bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories of the Bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others and give them a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead).

O: Outward Action: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week).

W: Worship: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? How would you like to respond to God? What would you like to say to God?

Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, it reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

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Prayer Example: Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen

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Fact Sheet

Illness

At the time of this story, Naaman's leprosy was a dreadful disease. In the initial stages of the disease, white spots appear on the skin and they extend as the disease progresses. The nerves are affected and they lose skin sensitivity. Eventually leprosy may extend and cause the loss of limbs and skin. Leprosy can disfigure the body so that the appearance of the person causes others to be afraid. People thought that leprosy was contagious. Lepers were driven from their homes and had to live far away from their families. They lived in leper colonies. To the leper the illness meant a lifetime separated from their loved ones and friends because there was no cure for leprosy.

Thus, it is easy to understand how important Naaman's trip was to meet with Elisha. Naaman was in danger of losing everything he had if he was not healed. How grateful he was to be healed!

Today leprosy is a curable disease. There are medicines that can stop the progression of the disease. We also know that it is not a contagious disease. God has given scientists and doctors wisdom and tools to help the lepers to live a normal life. It is truly a miracle that now there is help for people with this disease.

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Worksheet

Leprosy – yesterday and today

Fill in the blanks to show what you've learned about leprosy.

1. Long ago people were _____ of Naaman and his leprosy.
2. They knew people had leprosy when they saw _____ skin.
3. Leprosy was a _____ disease.
4. If you had leprosy you had to leave _____ and leave your _____.
5. There was no _____ for leprosy.
6. Today there is a _____ for leprosy.
7. In the life of Naaman God did a _____.
8. Today God has done a _____ giving scientists and physicians a _____ for leprosy.

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Worksheet

Answers: Leprosy – yesterday and today

1. Long ago, people were afraid of Naaman and his leprosy.
2. They knew people had leprosy when they saw white patches on the skin.
3. Leprosy was a dreaded disease.
4. If you had leprosy you had to leave home and leave your family.
5. There was no cure for leprosy.
6. Today there is a cure for leprosy.
7. In the life of Naaman God did a miracle.
8. Today God has done a miracle giving scientists and doctors a cure for leprosy.