

Explore It

FOR LEADERS



DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM? NAAMAN COMPLAINS

2 Kings 5:1-16 Naaman is healed

Naaman was a very important man serving the King of Aram. Despite all his wealth and power, Naaman was not happy as he struggled with a severe skin disease. He went for help from the prophet Elisha but did not get the grand welcome he thought he deserved!

Each child will need:

→ Pens/pencils and a sheet of A4 paper

You will need:

→ A copy of the alphabet (optional) – see Start It section

→ A copy of the memory verse to display for the children

Start It

🗨 **Say:** We are going to start our session today with a memory game to get our brains working. Many of you will have played the game I went to the shop, and I bought ... where you have to remember where each person adds an item to the list. We are going to play a different version of this game.

Ask the children to sit in a circle and to start with the line 'I went on an adventure, and I saw ...' To make the game more challenging, each item needs to start with the next letter of the alphabet. You may want to display a copy of the alphabet in the centre for children who need a memory aid.

Example:

→ 'I went on an adventure, and I saw an aeroplane.'

→ 'I went on an adventure, and I saw an aeroplane and a bunch of bananas.'

→ 'I went on an adventure, and I saw an aeroplane, a bunch of bananas and a catapult.'

Memory verse

🗨 **Say:** Now that we've got your brains working, we are going to look at our memory verse for this month. In our *Explore It* sessions we will learn about Bible characters who were asked to follow God's way of thinking. Some did what God asked straight away, and others purposefully did the opposite. Our Bible verse reminds us how the way we think impacts everything that we do. Let's have a look at the memory verse together.

'Don't live the way this world lives. Let your way of thinking be completely changed. Then you will be able to test what God wants for you. And you will agree that what he wants is right. His plan is good and pleasing and perfect.'

— (Romans 12:2 *NIRV*)

🗨 **Say:** Over the next month you will get lots of opportunities to learn this verse, and by Session Five you will know it off by heart.

If possible, display the memory verse in the room where you meet so you can come back to it each session.

Sing It

- **Say:** Our memory verse for this month reminds us that following God should lead us to think differently from people who do not follow him. Today's song should start you on your journey to learning the verse by heart. Please note that the song adapts the first line to 'Don't live [any longer] the way this world lives.'

'Romans 12:2' (memory verse song) by Hillsong Kids (2 mins)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=TuKnEeomG_w

- **Say:** We will come back to this song again in Sessions Three and Five to see how you are getting on with the memory verse.

Tell It

Ask:

- ➔ Do you think Mo Salah has to wait in line to buy the latest pair of trainers?
- ➔ How about Taylor Swift – do you think she struggles to get her favourite table in a restaurant?

Ask the children to explain their answers.

- **Say:** Often famous people are treated differently because of who they are. Sometimes if

no one recognises them they may say, 'Do you know who I am?' They then either have the embarrassment of the waiter saying, 'I haven't got a clue,' or experience the very best treatment the hotel can offer.

- **Say:** Our Bible character today was used to being treated with a lot of respect. His name was Naaman, and he was the right-hand man to the King of Aram, an enemy of the nation of Israel. He was a very powerful and strong man, but he had a skin disease called leprosy which could not be cured.

Read:

'Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man to his master. He had much honour because the Lord had used him to give victory to Aram. He was a mighty and brave man. But he had a harmful skin disease.'

'The Arameans had gone out to steal from the Israelites. And they had taken a little girl as a captive from Israel. This little girl served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "I wish that my master would meet the prophet who lives in Samaria. He would heal Naaman of his disease.'"

— (2 Kings 5:1-3 ICB)

- **Say:** The little girl had been captured and taken away from her home and yet she still wanted to help Naaman.

Ask: Why do you think she wanted to do that?

- **Say:** The little girl knew that God would want her to point Naaman in the direction of the prophet Elisha so that he could learn more about God.

Read:

'Naaman went to the king. He told him what the girl from Israel had said. The king of Aram said, "Go now. And I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So Naaman left and took about 375 kilograms of silver. He also took about 75 kilograms of gold and ten changes of clothes with him. He brought the letter to the king of Israel. It read, "I am sending my servant Naaman to you. I'm sending him so you can heal him of his skin disease.'"

'The king of Israel read the letter. Then he tore his clothes to show how upset he was. He said, "I'm not God! I can't kill and make alive again! Why does this man send someone with a harmful skin disease for me to heal? You can see that the king of Aram is trying to start trouble with me!'"

— (2 Kings 5:4-7 ICB)

🗨️ **Say:** If you added up all the money a person earned in a year and then multiplied it by 600, then that would be around the amount that Naaman took with him to pay for a chance to meet Elisha! Naaman was used to getting what he wanted and was willing to pay whatever he needed to if it meant he would be cured. He was confident that if he took lots of money then that would help him to jump the queue to see Elisha. The king of Israel was not so confident about Naaman's healing.

Ask: Why do you think the king of Israel was so upset?

🗨️ **Say:** The king of Israel thought the king of Aram was playing a trick on him knowing that there was no way that he could heal Naaman. But God had other plans.

Read:

'Elisha, the man of God, heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes. So he sent a message to the king. It said, "Why have you become so upset that you tore your clothes? Let Naaman come to me. Then he will know there is a prophet in Israel!" So Naaman went with his horses and chariots to Elisha's house. And he stood outside the door.

'Elisha sent a messenger to Naaman. The messenger said, "Go and wash in the Jordan River seven times. Then your skin will be healed, and you will be clean."

'Naaman became angry and left. He said, "I thought Elisha would surely come out and stand before me. I thought he would call on the name of the Lord his God. I thought he would wave his hand over the place and heal the disease! Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, are better than all the waters of Israel! Why can't I wash in them and become clean?" So Naaman went away very angry.'

— (2 Kings 5:8-12 ICB)

🗨️ **Say:** This is the moment where we can imagine Naaman shouting, 'Do you know who I am?'

Ask: Why do you think Naaman was so cross?

🗨️ **Say:** Naaman had turned up with the finest horses, carriages and lots of money and Elisha had not even appeared at the front door. He sent a messenger to tell Naaman to go and have a wash! No wonder Naaman was complaining so much.

Video

🗨️ **Say:** Let's find out how the story ends. In the clip we'll join two time travellers and their robot friend as they join Naaman at the side of the water. Let's see what happens.

Naaman healed of leprosy by Superbook (3 mins 14 secs)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=JrUZX8gTOqQ

Ask:

➔ How do you think Naaman felt when he came out of the water and discovered he was healed?

➔ Do you think it helped him to believe in God? Why?

🗨️ **Say:** Even though Naaman discovered more about God, he still had a lot to learn.

Read:

'Naaman and all his group came back to Elisha. He stood before Elisha and said, "Look. I now know there is no God in all the earth except in Israel! Now please accept a gift from me."

'But Elisha said, "I serve the Lord. As surely as the Lord lives, I won't accept anything." Naaman urged him to take the gift, but he refused.'

— (2 Kings 5:15-16 ICB)

🗨️ **Say:** Elisha did not want any of Naaman's money. It was enough that Naaman started to believe in God and follow him.

Action It

Give each child a sheet of A4 paper and ask them to fold it in half along the longer edge. Then ask them to fold it twice more, the other way. When they open up the paper, they should have eight boxes on their sheets. In the first two boxes on the left ask them to write, in big letters, 'Complaints to Blessings'.

● **Say:** In our story today Naaman was complaining because God did not answer his request in the way he expected. If we are honest, sometimes we tend to notice what God has not done for us, instead of noticing what he has done. Today we are going to spend some time changing our complaints to blessings.

Give the children time to think about the things they tend to complain about. You can collect ideas together as a group or they can create their ideas individually. In each box on their sheet they can write one of their complaints and see if they can switch perspective to see a blessing. They can also draw a picture to go with each one.

For example, for Naaman:

Complaint

Elisha can't even be bothered to come out and speak to me.

Blessing

Elisha was home when I visited and was willing to help me.

● **Say:** Sometimes we are so busy complaining that things are not quite the way that we would like them to be that we miss God's blessing.

Ask: How does what we have learned today link with our memory verse?

'Don't live the way this world lives. Let your way of thinking be completely changed. Then you will be able to test what God wants for you. And you will agree that what he wants is right. His plan is good and pleasing and perfect.'

— (Romans 12:2 *NIRV*)

Pray It

● **Say:** As we go into this week let's try to turn our complaints upside down and search for our blessings. For a final time of quiet and prayers together we are going to watch children from all around the world singing 'The blessing'.

Video

'The Blessing (kids)' – featuring kids from different nations by Allstars Kids Club (4 mins 37 secs)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=uiWZXLsdE9w

● **Say:**

**'May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord show you his kindness.
May he have mercy on you.
May the Lord watch over you
and give you peace.'
Amen.**

— (Numbers 6:24-26 *ICB*)

Explore It

Remember to send home the Explore It Ideas for children and families.

Explore It

IDEAS

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.

OCTOBER
SESSION 01

DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM? NAAMAN COMPLAINS

 2 Kings 5:1-16 Naaman is healed

FOR ME

TOGETHER



Pray

Think of seven people that you would like to pray for regularly. Every time you have a wash, shower or bath this week remember the seven people and pray for them.



Memorise

Challenge someone at home to learn this month's memory verse with you. Make a poster to stick up at home and keep checking in with each other to see if you can remember the verse.



Song for the week

'Romans 12:2' (memory verse song) by Hillsong Kids (2 mins)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=TuKnEeomG_w



Memory verse

'Don't live the way this world lives. Let your way of thinking be completely changed. Then you will be able to test what God wants for you. And you will agree that what he wants is right. His plan is good and pleasing and perfect.'

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