

Lesson Plans that Work
Year C – Proper 9
Lesson Plans for Older Children
Revised Common Lectionary Old Testament Readings – Track One

Scripture: 2 Kings 5:1-14

Background

As we continue to walk through “Ordinary Time” it is hard to imagine the lessons from our Old Testament scriptures as “ordinary” days. We hear fantastical accounts of kings, prophets, and courts and they sound so far away. But we are called to remember these stories of times past and to consider how ordinary days of ancestors relate to the ordinary days we face here and now.

A Notation for This Week’s Scripture

There is a lot going on in this story, but it is enough for children for it to be a story of healing, brought about by a messenger of God. As we continue to hear stories of prophets, it is good to remember they did much more than simply go around announcing doom or hope. They were agents of God’s healing mercies, as indicated in this story. And God’s healing extends beyond the boundaries we usually put up between people. Another lesson of the story is in Naaman’s response to his instructions. We also often want grand gestures and big obvious signs. Sometimes healing comes from the simplest of acts.

Theme: Healing and Wholeness

Before Class:

You will need to gather props for acting out the story and any craft supplies you may need for the activities.

Beginning: When the children have arrived and settled in, ask them if there has been a time when someone helped them get better when they were not well. How did the person help them?

Opening Prayer: Gracious and loving God, we thank you for healing us and for walking with us when we do not feel well. Help us to remember to reach out for help when we need it. Amen.

The Story: 2 Kings 5:1-14

See the script at the end of the lesson.

2 Kings 5:1-14

Because there is so much happening in the story today, we invite you to have the children act out the lesson. See below for a script. You may want to have props to help them keep all the characters clear.

Once they have acted it out, invite them to reflect on the following:

Reflection Questions:

- I wonder what it was like for Naaman to be powerful and yet have a disease that held him back?
- I wonder what it was like to finally wash himself in a river and be cured.
- I wonder what it was like to play the person you did?
- I wonder what it would have been like to be someone else?

Activity:

Prayer Cards: Invite the children to create prayer cards and messages for those in your community who are sick and in need of healing.

Watercolor: Invite the children to create watercolor pictures of the river that washes away sickness and brings healing. Wonder with them what they would want the river to wash away.

Getting Closure: Invite the children to share what they have created.

Closing Prayer: Gracious God, we thank you for your messengers and healers that help us to listen to you and know you better. Be with us as we go from this place and help us to see you in those we meet. Amen.

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Script for 2 Kings 5:1-14

You will want to have the props ready to go. If you have a large class, you can have the readers and the actors separate. If you have a class full of readers, you can give each person their lines as they come stand in their place.

Props:

- Naaman – hat
- Naaman’s wife – head scarf
- Naaman’s servant girl – a basket to carry
- Naaman’s servant – rolled up piece of paper to give to the King of Israel and a bag
- King of Syria – crown of one color
- King of Israel – crown of another color
- Elisha – cloak or robe
- Elisha’s servant – messenger bag
- Blue and brown blanket or fabric on the floor for the river

Teacher: Today’s story has lots of characters and action, so we are all going to help act it out.

*Invite a volunteers forward in this order, give them their props and have them set up according to the diagram. * Indicates non-reading parts*

Narrator can be either the teacher or a child who will stand off to the side of the action. The teacher or an assistant will have to help direct the children to their location.

In Syria we have:

- King of Syria – important king
- Naaman – a general in the military in Syria
- Naaman’s servant boy
- *Naaman’s wife
- Naaman’s servant girl

In Israel we have:

- King of Israel – king of a smaller and not as significant country
- *Elisha
- Elisha’s servant
- *The Jordan River – two to four people to shake the blankets/fabric

	Elisha	King of Israel	King of Syria	Naaman	Naaman’s servant boy
River	Elisha’s servant			Naaman’s wife	Naaman’s servant girl

Our story begins with Naaman, at home in Syria.

Narrator: Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master, because by him the Lord had given victory to Aram. Naaman, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy which is a skin disease. Back in those days, if someone had leprosy, they were considered unclean and could not go everywhere in society. Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress,

Naaman's Servant Girl: "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy."

Narrator: So Naaman went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of Israel had said. And the king of Aram said,

King of Syria: "Go then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel."

Narrator: He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments. He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read,

King of Israel: (Pretending to read the letter) "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his leprosy."

Narrator: When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said,

King of Israel: "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me."

Narrator: But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king,

Elisha's Servant: "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to Elisha, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel."

Narrator: So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying,

Elisha's Servant: "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean."

Narrator: But Naaman became angry and went away, saying,

Naaman: "I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! Are not Abana and

Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?"

Narrator: He turned and went away in a rage. But his servants approached and said to him,

Naaman's Servant: "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean'?"

Invite the river to shake and wash over Naaman as he comes to the river.

Narrator: So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.