

## Small Group and Personal Bible Study Guide

### This Weeks Memory Verse: Acts 3:19

“Repent then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.”

### This Weeks Lesson: 2 Kings 5

The story of Naaman being cleansed by God through the prophet Elisha.

1. How do you feel about Naaman’s initial reaction to Elisha’s command for him to wash in the Jordon river? (See verses 11 & 12) Why do you think Naaman reacted the way he did?

It is amazing how he goes seeking healing but he wants it on his own terms in his own way. It is almost as if he is too proud to have a simple healing or to have God work in a way outside of his own plan. I think we all fall into that at times. We have an idea on how God will work and that is the only thing we will accept. When he directs us outside of our plan we reject.

2. Who are the great people of faith in this story that have a heart for God and for people? Who seems to be self-centered and lacking in faith in this story?

In this case, besides the faith of Elisha, the servant girl of Naaman’s wife and later Naaman’s own servants show the greatest faith as they encourage Naaman to seek God for healing. On the other hand, the King of Israel (Joram) seems to lack faith and trust in God. Even though he is king, he is filled with fear and maybe even anger. Gehazi who sees the Lord work mighty things through his prophet Elisha let’s personal greed override his faithfulness to God. Finally, Naaman himself seems to let his own pride get in the way of submitting to God and only after being prompted by others does he submit.

3. Why do you think Elisha chose not to accept the gifts from Naaman?

Elisha wanted all glory to go to God. He recognized it was not by his hand that Naaman was healed but by the Lord. Accepting gifts would take focus from God and from the purpose of the healing. He was not selling God or selling healing. He was just declaring the glory of God. We know that Jesus also chose to give all glory to God. (John 5:19)

4. Gehazi obviously desired things of the world more than the things God desires. What results may have occurred in response to his actions?

Gehazi received the consequence of his sin of greed. Not only did he lie to Elisha and to God, but he could have taken focus off the purpose and power of the healing. That is to show the glory of God. By taking gifts, he may have represented Elisha as the healer rather than God. This can still happen today when man takes credit for the work of the Lord.

5. Gehazi may have struggled with greed. Naaman may have struggled with pride. Joram (the King of Israel) may have struggled with doubt and with fear. What do you struggle with? What is inside of you that is not matching what is outside?

Why do we put on false faces to hide our weaknesses from God rather than laying them at his feet and repenting and asking for forgiveness and refreshing?

Allow time to talk and allow people to repent of sins of the past. God wants all of us to all return to his grace. Read Acts 3:19 (our memory verse) out loud and meditate on the promise of refreshing from the Lord. Spend extra time praying for a refreshing from God.

**This Weeks Reading Schedule:** This week in addition to reading about Naaman and Elisha we will also look at John chapter 5 and see how Jesus healed and how he simply followed wherever the Father was already working. He depended upon the Father and gave praise to the Father.

Day 1 - 1 Kings 5:1-18

Day 2 - 1 Kings 5:19-27

Day 3 - John 5:1-15

Day 4 - John 5:16-30

Day 5 - John 5:31-47