

THE WHOLE STORY

From Genesis to Revelation

2 Kings 5:1-18

Introduction:

In God's kingdom, the insignificant often takes center stage. The weak are made strong. The humble are lifted up. And obedience to God in the little details often demonstrates big faith.

This week, we encounter the story of Naaman. Naaman has a lot going for him — he is described as a “mighty man of valor,” well respected by his king and his people, and rich beyond your wildest dreams. But one thing isn't so great: Naaman has an incurable skin condition called *leprosy*. God gets hold of this one *weakness* to reveal Naaman's need for a savior and to kick off a chain of events that leads to Naaman's salvation and God's glory.

We see how God uses people and events in Naaman's life to move him to slowly let go of his pride and self-reliance and put his faith in God alone. Naaman learns that his accomplishments, status, and wealth aren't important to God — which God desires not sacrifice, but trust and obedience to what he has commanded.

This Week's Main Focus:

God meets us not at our highest point, but at our lowest point.

God reveals himself not in our strength, but in our weakness.

While we can't say for sure that Naaman was “saved,” Naaman's story of repentance is one of the clearest pictures of salvation that we have in the Old Testament. By the end of the chapter, Naaman has turned from his gods, put his faith in Yahweh, and displays an almost shocking transformation of character.

As you read Naaman's story, reflect on your own spiritual story. What weakness has God given you to reveal your need for him? Who has God put in your life to point you to him? What areas of your life do you need to surrender to God?

Sermon Response Question:

1) This weekend Pastor J.D. said that instead of looking for God, Naaman was just looking for a cure for his leprosy. What are you prone to look for from God over or instead of knowing him?

Bible Study Questions:

Read 2 Kings 5:1-18

2) Make a list of everything we learn about Naaman and his character in verses 1-14.

3) Who does God use in Naaman's spiritual story, and what role does each person play in pointing Naaman to God?

4) How does Naaman change after he has experienced God's power in verses 15-18?

5) Sometimes we come to God expecting one thing, and he gives us another. What did Naaman expect Elisha to do for him? How did God's plan differ?

6) What was more important in Naaman's salvation: his *faith* or his *obedience*? How does Naaman's story point you to the Gospel?

Group Application Questions:

7) Naaman's journey begins when he hears about the God of Israel from the Israelite girl that his people had kidnapped. Who do you consider an "enemy" or "oppressors" that God calling you to share the gospel with?

8) As Naaman demonstrated by obeying God's instructions, God's power is experienced through faith and obedience to his word in the details of life. What small, seemingly insignificant areas of your life have you refused to submit to God that will unlock his power if you obey?

Prayer: Read Psalm 119:65-72

- Thank God for being gracious and kind to us according to his word.
- Ask God to teach you judgment and kindness based on his commandments.
- Praise God that he is both good and does good to his children.
- Confess to God ways that do not act according to God's word and kindness.