Lesson

Engaging Introduction

Welcome, everyone! Today, we're going to explore a fascinating story from the book of 2 Kings in the Bible. How many of you like exciting tales about brave characters and surprising miracles? Well, grab your imaginations and get comfortable, because this story has both!

Our tale takes us back to a time when kings ruled, battles were fought, and miraculous events were signs of God's mighty power. We're focusing on a man named Naaman. Naaman was a big deal in the kingdom of Aram. Imagine a general in today's army—respected, brave, and a leader. Naaman was known for his victories in battle and had earned great respect.

But there was a problem. Naaman had a serious disease called leprosy. In those days, leprosy was not only painful but also made people keep their distance. No one wanted to catch it, so it was a very lonely illness, too. Even though Naaman was mighty and respected, he was very worried and looking for hope.

Do you know what it feels like to hope for something really big? Maybe you've wished for things like healing when you're sick, or a solution to something difficult. Naaman needed a miracle, something he couldn't achieve with his own power or army.

Now, hold on to that thought, because our story has a twist involving a humble servant girl, a river, and an unexpected miracle. As we dive deeper into the story, think about how it shows God's power and plan, even in the most unexpected ways.

Main Teaching Points

1. A Big Problem and a Little Helper

Our story begins with Naaman's big problem—his illness. Despite his stature and role as a leader, he couldn't solve this problem alone. This teaches us that no matter how big or strong we are, we sometimes need help.

Enter the little servant girl from Israel. Captured during a battle, she worked for Naaman's wife. Though young and away from her home, this brave girl did something extraordinary—she spoke up. She mentioned a prophet in Israel named Elisha, who could help Naaman.

The lesson here is powerful. God can use anyone, no matter how small or young, to do great things and bring about change. Just like this young girl, when you see someone in need, your words can be the catalyst for help and healing.

2. The Long Journey of Faith

Naaman listened to the girl and went to his king for permission to visit the land of Israel. Loaded with gifts to offer Elisha, Naaman set out on a journey of faith, hoping for a miracle.

Imagine traveling a long distance, excited and nervous about what you might discover. Like Naaman, we sometimes embark on journeys, whether big or small, not knowing how they'll turn out. The hopeful courage of Naaman shows us that trusting in what we haven't seen yet is

sometimes necessary. He didn’t know if the journey would end in healing, but he went anyway.

3. The Unexpected Solution

Finally, Naaman meets Elisha's messenger, who tells him to do something surprising: wash in the Jordan River seven times. Naaman was angry! He expected Elisha to cure him with a spectacular act, not something so ordinary as dipping in a river.

Often, we’re like Naaman, expecting big, dramatic solutions, while God's plan is more ordinary. With a little convincing from his servants, Naaman reluctantly obeys, ties up his pride, and follows the simple instruction—to wash in the river.

This teaches us that sometimes the solutions to our problems are simpler than we think. Following God’s directions, even when they seem unusual or humbling, can lead to the answers we're seeking.

4. The Miracle of Obedience

When Naaman came up from the water the seventh time, his skin was not just clean—it was as healthy as a child’s. The disease was gone! Through obeying the prophet’s simple instructions, Naaman was healed.

God’s miracles often come when we are obedient. Like Naaman, when we step out in faith and follow God’s directions, wonderful things can happen. It also teaches us to be humble and trust God’s wisdom over our own understanding.

5. A New Belief

After his healing, Naaman returned to Elisha to express gratitude and pledged to worship no other God but the God of Israel. This part of the story shows a transformation—not just on the outside, but in Naaman’s heart.

Sometimes when we experience something amazing, it changes us forever. Naaman’s newfound faith in God highlights how impactful one encounter with God can be in our lives, turning doubts into belief, and strangers into friends of God.

Personal Application for Elementary Students

Now, let’s think about how Naaman’s story can relate to your own life. Maybe you’ll never lead an army, and perhaps you’ll never need to dip in a river to clear your skin. But the lessons here are important for you, too.

First, remember the servant girl. Even though she was young, her willingness to speak up changed Naaman’s life. Think about being kind and helpful in your own way. You have the power to make a difference, just by sharing kind words or helping those in need around you.

Next, consider Naaman’s courage to go on a journey of faith. You might have times where you’re unsure about the future. It could be starting a new school year, trying out for a team, or even speaking up when something seems unfair. Have faith that these challenges can turn into something positive if you trust and take that first step.

Finally, think about obedience and humility. Whether it’s following rules at school or listening to

parents, understand that these instructions often come from a place of caring. God asks us to obey even when it's hard, and in doing so, we learn, grow, and often find unexpected blessings.

And like Naaman, as we grow and understand God’s love more, we’re called to share it with others. That kind of change, seen from the inside out, is what people notice most.

Interactive Discussion Questions

Let’s wrap up our lesson with some questions to make you think and discuss:

1. Why was the servant girl important in this story, and how does her action show us the impact of being brave and kind?

Think about when you see someone who might need help or be sad. Like the servant girl, a simple kind word or a small action can have a big impact. Discuss how you can make this part of your daily life.

2. Naaman was a mighty warrior, yet he had to do something simple and humble to be healed. Why do you think God chose such a simple solution?

Sometimes, the best answers are not the most complicated ones. Ask yourself, "Are there ways I can solve troubles simply by listening to good advice or following rules?" Talking about this can show how powerful simple solutions can be.

3. After his healing, Naaman vowed to only worship the God of Israel. What does this teach us about how we should respond when something wonderful happens in our lives?

When something good happens, it's important to remember gratitude. Discuss ways you can show thankfulness to God and others in your life after experiencing something special.

These questions are meant to help you think about how the lessons from Naaman's story can be lived out each day. Remember, God can use each of you in mighty ways, no matter your size or age. And every challenge can be an opportunity to grow in your faith and character.