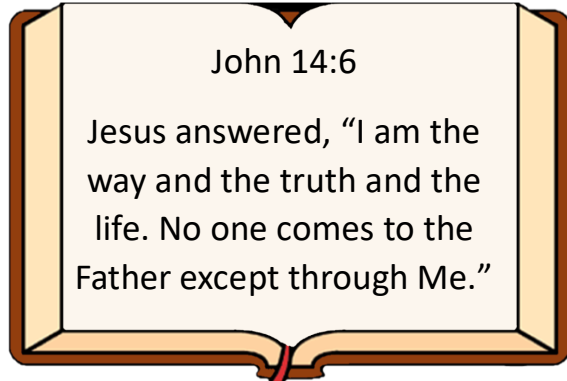


Weekly Memory Verse



According to the verse, Jesus is what three things?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

How do you get to the Father? _____

Naaman Is Healed



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Lesson Link

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Ben-hadad, the king of Syria, had put a man named Naaman in charge of his army. He was very brave, had won many victories. He was liked by the king, and honored as a great soldier.

But Naaman had leprosy. Leprosy is a disease that affects the skin. It starts with a small white spot and then spreads all over the body. It is a terrible disease that leaves people helpless, not able to care for themselves, and often ends in death.

Today, there are medicines and treatments to cure leprosy, but in Naaman's day it was hopeless. Anyone who had leprosy was sure to die from this disease; there was no cure. When an Israelite had leprosy, he could not live with his family or others because the disease was very contagious. Naaman and his family must have been unhappy, knowing he had no hope of being healed or even living. They did not know the true and living God who could help them.

But there was someone in Naaman's home who did know and trust God! It was a young slave girl from Israel who served Naaman's wife. This girl believed in the true and living God. She knew that Elisha was God's prophet and had done wonderful miracles by God's power.

The girl said to Naaman's wife, "I wish my master would go and see the prophet who lives in Samaria. He will heal him of this leprosy." Maybe she even told her of the miracles Elisha had done.

When Naaman heard the news, he went right to the king and told him what the servant girl had said.

Ben-hadad said to Naaman, "Go at once! I will send a letter with you to give to the king of Israel." So Naaman left for Israel, taking many horses, chariots, and servants with him. He also took many gifts: 750 lbs of silver, 150 lbs of gold, and 10 changes of beautiful clothes.

When he arrived at the palace, he gave the letter to King Joram. It said, "I have sent this letter with my servant Naaman. I want you to cure him of his leprosy."

The king tore his clothes; he was very upset. "I am not God," he said. "Why did he send someone with leprosy to me to heal?" If Naaman went back unhealed, maybe the Syrians would attack Israel. What should he do? The king had turned from the true God and didn't even think to ask Him for His help now.

Word of Naaman's visit to the king soon spread throughout the land. When Elisha heard of King Joram's problem, he sent a message to him. "Why have you torn your clothes? Send the man to me; he will know there is a prophet of God in Israel." Elisha believed God could heal Naaman.

Naaman hurried to Elisha's house with his chariots, horses, and servants. When he arrived at Elisha's home, Elisha did not go out to meet him. Instead, he sent his servant out to greet Naaman with these instructions: "Go and wash in the Jordan River seven times and your body will be healed of the disease."

Circle the correct answer.

His wife's maid believed a (*doctor, prophet, magician*) in Israel could help Naaman.

Naaman was furious. He was an important man; he thought Elisha would come right out to meet him and perform an official healing ceremony. Then, he was offended because he was asked to wash in the Jordan River, which was very muddy compared to the rivers in Syria. In a furious rage, he turned to leave. If he couldn't do it his own way, he was going home.

Naaman's servants said, "If the prophet had told you to do some great and difficult thing, wouldn't you have done it? But this is such a simple thing: wash and be clean. Just try it!" They were right; Naaman had nothing to lose. It was his pride that was keeping him from obeying Elisha's instructions. So Naaman listened to his servants; he knew they cared for him and wanted him to be healed.

Naaman and his servants drove to the Jordan River. "What a silly thing this is! I will look very foolish going into that muddy river. I have washed myself many times, but I have never been healed. This probably won't work."

When he reached the river, he slowly walked into the muddy river and dipped down under the water. When he came up, the spots were still there. He thought, "It isn't working." But Elisha told him to dip in the water seven times. So down he went, again and again—five times, six times, probably checking those spots each time. But when he came up the seventh time, Naaman looked at his skin. He could hardly believe it! A miracle had truly happened to him! All the spots were completely gone. His skin was like that of a young boy. He was healed! Imagine his joy! Not only was Naaman healed, but he also saw the power of the true and living God.

Naaman and his servants did not return to Syria right away but went back to Elisha's home instead. Naaman was a different man now. He was healed of leprosy, and he was no longer proud and angry, as he had been earlier. The one true God had changed his life.

When Naaman arrived at Elisha's home this time, Elisha came out to meet him. Naaman spoke some wonderful words, "Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel."

Then Naaman insisted, "Please accept a gift from me."

Elisha refused, saying, "No I cannot take your gift. I did not heal you; the true and living God, whom I serve did this for you." He wanted Naaman to see that the true God does not ask for payment. He only wants us to have faith in Him.

Then Naaman said, "I will never again offer a sacrifice to any god but the true and living God."

Nothing more is said about Naaman or what happened when he arrived home. But can you imagine how happy his wife and family were when they saw him healed? How excited the servant girl must have been when she realized that a miracle had taken place because she was willing to tell Naaman's wife about the true God.

Circle the correct answer.

Naaman went to the river and dipped into the water (3, 7, 10) times.