

SESSION 3: OPEN TO SURPRISE

THE HEALING OF NAAMAN 2 KINGS 5:1-14

READERS: NARRATORS 1 AND 2; SERVANT;
KING OF ARAM; KING OF ISRAEL, NAAMAN,
ELISHA

NARRATOR 1: 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. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy.

NARRATOR 2: ²Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. ³She said to her mistress,

SERVANT: If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy.

NARRATOR 1: ⁴So Naaman went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of Israel had said. ⁵And the king of Aram said,

KING OF ARAM: Go then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel.

NARRATOR 2: He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments. ⁶He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read,

KING OF ARAM: When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his leprosy.

NARRATOR 1: ⁷When 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 2: ⁸But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king,

ELISHA: Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel.

NARRATOR 1: ⁹So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. ¹⁰Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying,

SERVANT: Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean.

NARRATOR 2: ¹¹But 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! ¹²Are 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 1: He turned and went away in a rage. ¹³But his servant approached and said to him,

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"?

NARRATOR 2: ¹⁴So 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.