

ELEMENTARY (K-3)

17. A little servant girl and the proud general

The story of Naaman.

Memory Verse

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. John 10:27

Story Time

Read 'A little servant girl and the proud general' (pages 136-143 in the Jesus Storybook Bible) or watch the video on our website.

Understanding the Story

Talk this through with your kids:

To help us understand today's story a bit better, let's play a game! It's called 'Mission Impossible.' You'll need the smarties from your box. An adult stands at one side of the room with the smarties, the kids at the other side. The kids can have the smarties if they can cross the room without touching the floor (or walking on any furniture). It's an impossible mission! They won't be able to do it. The only way it can work is if the adult goes to them. After they've tried for a while, go to them and give them the treat. It's a gift - not something they could earn.

Naaman went on a mission to earn God's rescue and healing. He took a letter from his king and loaded his bags with gifts and money. But trying to buy his rescue was a mission impossible! God's rescue isn't something we achieve or earn; it's a gift! Naaman's life was changed when he listened and obeyed God's instructions. We need our lives to be transformed by God too! But it's not something we earn, it's a gift. Like the adult walking across the room with the smarties, Jesus came to us - we wouldn't be able to do it on our own! God's rescue is a free gift we can receive.

Digging a little deeper:

God's rescue is not based on how important or powerful we are. We don't need to prove our worth. We see status - important and less important, but God sees value in all people. He makes himself known to anyone who is willing.

Questions to get you talking:

- Can you think of an awesome gift you've received? What was it?
- Can you remember a time you've asked for help?

Activities in your box

- **Bath Crayons.** Colour on the side of the tub and wash it away. You could draw Naaman and wash his skin clean! (*please note, the reviews for this product say it's easy to clean from the tub, but may discolour the grout if used on tile.)
- **Water beads.** Put a teaspoon of beads in about 2l of water and watch them transform throughout the day! They'll grow to be about the size of a marble. Have fun playing! They're great in a marble run if you own one, or you could put them inside water balloons or a clear bottle with a little water to create a sensory toy/bottle.

Activities using things around the house:

- Play '**Simon Says**'. Naaman set out to earn God's rescue and healing, instead, it was given to him like a gift! All he had to do was listen to the instructions from God's helper, Elisha.

ELEMENTARY (4-7)

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Digging a little deeper:

Did you notice in this story, all the important people seem totally unaware of God's character, but all the servants have a lot of wisdom about who God is? You'd think the important people would have the important things figured out, but instead, it's the people who were seen as the least who had the most understanding. It's a pattern that

happens a lot in the bible! God's way turns what we expect upside-down. But what can that teach us? God's rescue is not based on how important or powerful we are. We don't need to prove our worth. We see status - important and less important, but God sees value in all people. He makes himself known to anyone who is willing.

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