LESSON 1

NAAMAN VISITS ELISHA



Aim: **To show the children that we cannot come to God trusting in our own importance.**

Scripture Reading: **2 Kings 5:1–12**

Memory Verse: **Exodus 20:1–2**
And God spoke all these words: "I am the Lord your God ..."

During this set of lessons, the children will learn the Ten Commandments (Ex 20:1-17).

PRESENTING THE LESSON

STARTING POINT

People are proud of the country they come from. For example, if you come from Australia you will be proud to know that it is the world's largest island. Think of the things that make you proud of your country.

MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. Naaman was very proud of his country, Syria. It was an important country with a beautiful capital called Damascus, and lovely rivers that made the land fertile. He also was very proud of his position as commander of the Syrian army, which had won many battles. Naaman was proud of the fact that the king of Syria thought highly of him (2 Ki 5:1a).
2. But there was one thing Naaman was not proud of. He had leprosy. In those days there was no cure for this skin disease, not even in an advanced and prosperous country like Syria (5:1b).
3. Naaman's wife had a slave girl who came from the poor neighbouring country of Israel. She was thought to be one of the most unimportant members of Naaman's household, but she knew where her master would find help. She told her mistress about a prophet of the God of Israel who could cure leprosy (5:2-3).
4. When Naaman's wife told him about this he got leave of absence from the king of Syria to travel to Israel to visit this prophet. He took many valuable gifts with him (Syria was a rich country and Naaman an important man). He also took along a letter from the king himself that said who Naaman was and that ordered the recipient to cure his good servant Naaman (5:4-6).

Look,Listen&Live_Book5.indd 10 2012/09/07 15:07 PM



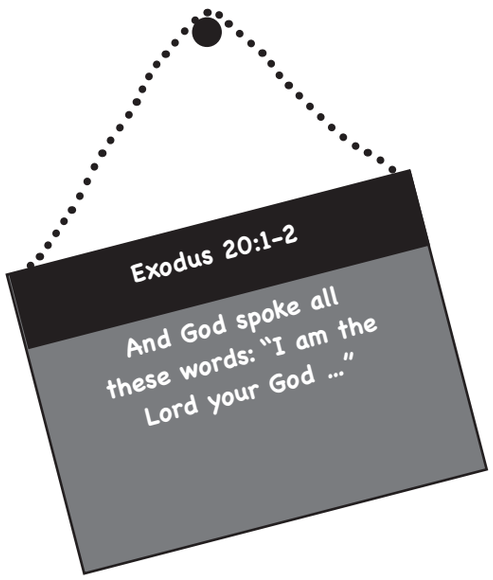
5. However, the proud General Naaman went to the wrong person for help. He and his king thought he should go to see the king of Israel, not some prophet. When the king of Israel read the letter he became very worried, because he couldn't cure Naaman's leprosy. He was afraid that if he displeased the king of Syria it would give the Syrians a reason to attack Israel again (5:7).
6. God's prophet Elisha heard what had happened and instructed the king of Israel to send Naaman to his humble house. Elisha was the one who could cure Naaman by the power of God (5:8).
7. **Show Picture 1. Point out how angry Naaman looks.** Elisha the prophet chose not to receive Naaman or any of his gifts. He just sent his servant out to meet the important general with some instructions that seemed like a joke: Naaman had to wash himself seven times in the River Jordan. The proud Syrian soldier despised the little country of Israel and felt offended by Elisha's simple advice and lack of respect. Angrily, he refused to follow the instructions … and he still had leprosy (5:9-12).

Our Response to the Story

Why didn't the prophet Elisha welcome Naaman with great respect, as one would have expected? Why did he send a mere servant to this important man with instructions that seemed so ridiculous? Elisha wanted to show Naaman that his important country, his wealth and his position counted for nothing before the God of Israel. God would heal Naaman only when he stopped trusting in his own abilities and power. His pride was stopping him from receiving God's blessing.

We are sometimes too proud of what we can do ourselves, and that can stop us from receiving God's blessings.

In the next lesson we shall see how Naaman learnt this truth.



Instil the Memory Verse

Look,Listen&Live_Book5.indd 11 2012/09/07 15:07 PM