



Which of the following do you think made Rachel happy?

- A. Naaman was healed.
- B. Naaman brought her a new dress.
- C. Now Naaman worshipped her God.
- D. She could say, "I told you so!"



Which of the following do you think surprised Naaman?

- A. That he could be healed of leprosy.
- B. That Rachel's God would heal an enemy who had made her a slave.
- C. That Rachel's advice wasn't a trick.
- D. That God's gift of healing was free.

We do not know what happened to Rachel after that, but we know that she was a friend of God and that God would take care of her.

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GOD'S YOUNG FRIENDS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

LESSON 8 Naaman's Maid: Friend of God

We do not know her name, but we know that she was kidnapped and taken as a slave to Syria, a country east of Israel. We know her family had taught her to love God because she was still a friend of God even after she became a slave.

We also know that being a Syrian slave was much worse than being a slave in Israel. In Israel slaves who had been sold to pay off their family debts were set free every seven years. In Syria they were slaves for life.

Let's pretend her name was Rachel. Her owner was Naaman, the commander-in-chief of the armies of King Ben-Hadad of Syria. One day there was great sadness in the house of Naaman. He had become very sick. He had leprosy! It was an incurable disease. Rachel could have felt that it served him right, but she didn't. Instead she tried to think of a way to help him.



*Read about
what she did in
2 Kings 5.*



I wish Naaman could meet the prophet Elisha in my country. He could heal him of his leprosy.

But Elisha is a prophet of God. God made us and He can heal us too. He can do ANYTHING, even heal leprosy!

No, but God is so powerful He can bring people back to life who have died. Leprosy would not be hard for Him if He chose to heal it.

Don't be silly! The commander-in-chief go to Israel for help? They are the enemy! Besides leprosy is incurable. Everyone knows that.

Do you know of anyone he has healed of leprosy?

I am telling Naaman!



Naaman said these three things. How did Elisha answer? Read 2 Kings 5:16. Cross out the statement Elisha did NOT make.

Prophet of God! Please take this silver and gold, and these expensive clothes as a small token of my thankfulness to you.

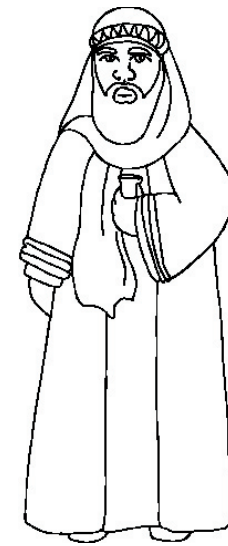
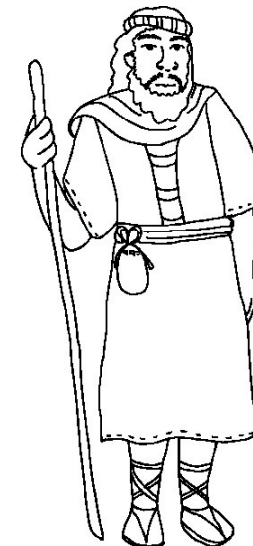
Thank you very much. This money and clothes will really help God's work.

Rimmon, the god of Syria could not heal me of leprosy. Can I take some dirt and rocks from your yard back to Syria to build an altar to your God in my garden?

Certainly!

I will worship the God of Israel the rest of my life. He is so GREAT! He can do ANYTHING!

You can be sure that God lives, and His gift of healing is free.



And he did! All of his servants watched as he waded into the Jordan River. Each time he dipped under the muddy water, the servants looked to see if his sores were getting smaller. But they looked the same. The seventh time he went under, they all held their breath. What if nothing happened? Would Naaman start a new war with Israel?



Naaman came out of the water with brand new skin! The patchy white leprosy sores were *all* gone! His skin glowed brown and healthy. He dropped to his knees to thank the Israelite God whom he did not know. Then he rushed back to Elisha's house.

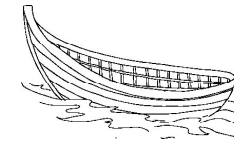
Naaman was interested and told the Syrian king. The king valued Naaman so highly that he sent many gifts and a letter to the king of Israel asking him to heal Naaman.



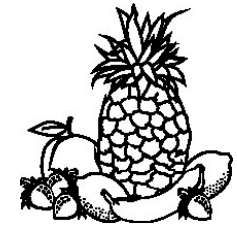
Read 2 Kings 5:5 to find out what gifts King Ben-Hadad sent to the king of Israel. Cross out the gifts below that he did not send.



10 bags of gold



Boat



Food



Idol

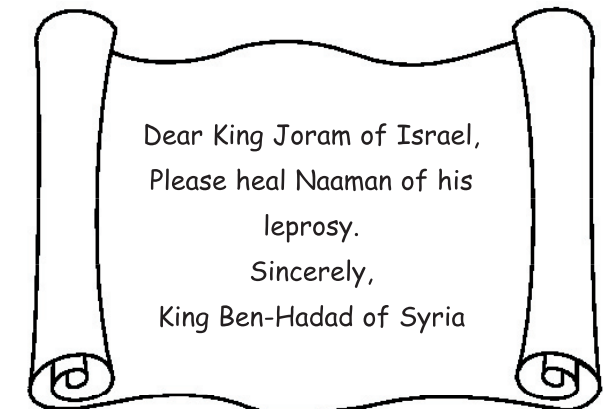


10 bags of silver



10 changes of clothing

What was in the letter?



Was Ben-Hadad asking the right person? Circle the correct answer:

YES

NO

What on earth is King Ben-Hadad thinking? That I am God and can heal Naaman's leprosy? He knows I cannot! He is just looking for an excuse to declare war on us again!

Go home! Tell your king I am only a man, not God! Go pick on someone else!



Send him in.

But my servant said . . .



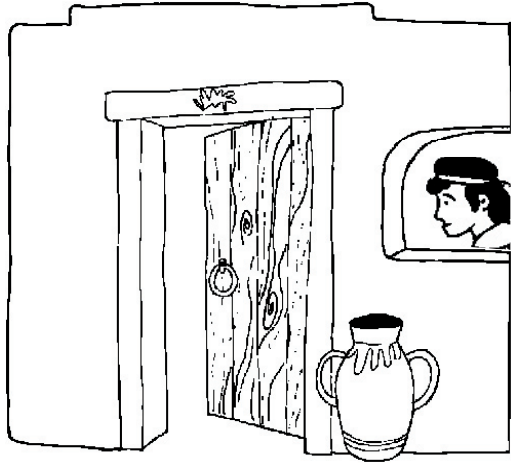
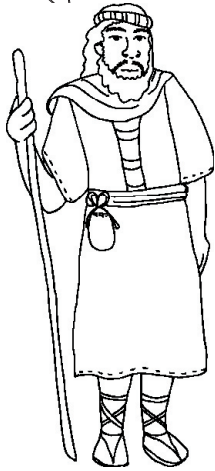
Uh, your Majesty, there is a servant from the prophet Elisha with an urgent message.

The prophet Elisha says: "King Joram, have you forgotten that there is a God in Israel? Why are you so upset? Send Naaman to me."



King Joram had forgotten that God can take care of ANY problem.

This is the house. Let's knock on the door.



Elisha says to go wash in the Jordan River seven times.

That's it? He isn't even coming out to see me himself, or say any magic words, or wave his hands over my sores! He just sends a message for me to go wallow in their muddy little river when we have such clean, beautiful ones at home? No way! Let's go home! NOW!

Sir, if the prophet had asked you for money or to do something hard, would you have done it?



Then it would be easy to try dipping in the Jordan River. It can't hurt you.

Of course!

I guess I could try.

