

Session 4

Elisha, Naaman and the girl

Children experience that they can tell adults about God

Scripture: 2 Kings 5; Isaiah 44:6

Supplies

- Role play this story in the sandbox or show the video: https://youtu.be/06PpFzT-xm0?list=PLktIXDwXKqcZX-cW3hOZN3tI_NT-4BViA
- Copies of the colouring pictures
- Paper doll, slider-bookmark



Welcome

Play the game – “On the shore, in the water”: Divide the group into two teams, facing each other. In the middle they have to pretend is a great body of water. You can use lines of tiles or carpet on the floor to resemble the boundaries or use masking tape. Children start by standing “on the shore.” When you call out: “in the water!” the children must hop into the water, when you call out: “on the shore” the children must jump backwards behind the line again. The idea is to trick children to obey the wrong command. If you call “in the water” again when they are already there and they jump in the wrong direction, they are out.



Worship

Settle down ritual: Let the children close their eyes. Ask them to just look/focus on the light and dark patterns in their eyelids. After 10 seconds, in a calm voice say: “God’s light is always shining in the light and dark parts of your life. Ask the Lord to show the dark things in your life to you and help you to take it away.” Wait 2 seconds and then say: “Amen.”



Word

Tell the story by using the sandbox.

Naaman was a very important man. He was the commander of the Syrian army and he was highly respected and esteemed by the king. Many people knew him because he was a great soldier. In one of their raids against Israel, the Syrians had carried off a little Israelite girl, who became a servant of Naaman’s wife. This little girl loved the Lord. Naaman fell very ill with a dreaded skin-disease called leprosy (explain to the group what leprosy is). Everyone was very upset that he fell ill with this disease, because they all knew that Naaman would no longer be able to live with them because of this contagious disease. There was no medicine or cure for this disease. One day the girl said to her mistress, Naaman’s wife, “I wish that my master could go to the prophet Elisha who lives in Samaria! He would cure him of his disease.” The girl knew that God would help Elisha to heal Naaman. So Naaman set out with gifts from his king for the king of Israel with a message to cure Naaman. The king of Israel got a big fright; he

knew he could not heal Naaman. He was very scared that this was a trick just to cause trouble and a quarrel. When the prophet Elisha heard what had happened, he sent word to the king: "Why are you upset? Send the man to me, and I'll show him that there is a prophet in Israel." So Naaman went to Elisha's house. Elisha sent a servant out to tell him to go and wash himself seven times in the Jordan river, and he would be completely cured of his disease. But Naaman left in a rage saying, "I thought that he would at least come out to me, pray to the Lord his God, wave his hand and cure me! Besides, aren't the rivers back in Damascus better than any river in Israel?" His servants told him to listen to the prophet. So Naaman went down to the Jordan river, dipped himself in it seven times, as Elisha had instructed, and he was completely cured. His flesh became firm and healthy like that of a child. He returned to Elisha with all his men and said; "Now I know that there is no god but the God of Israel, so please, sir, accept a gift from me." Yes, you heard right – Naaman loved God!

Children reflect on the story:

1. I wonder how you would've felt if you were Naaman.
2. I wonder how Naaman felt when he was cured.
3. I wonder what you would have done if you were the little girl.
4. I wonder how you feel about God when you hear the story.



Working and Playing

- Colouring picture
- Paper doll activity

Closing prayer to end the session



Cut out the strip of paper with the two pictures of Naaman. Now be very careful and cut on the dotted lines in the big picture with a craft knife (in the water and just above the land). Thread the strip through the slots that you made with the craft knife, as shown below. Pull the strip of paper up and down from behind as you tell the story, where Naaman dipped himself seven times in the Jordan river. After the seventh time, pull the strip of paper further so the “healthy” Naaman appears out of the water.

Start with the ill Naaman above the water. Pull the strip down so that he is in the water en pull him up again.



Repeat another 6 times. After the seventh “submersion” pull the strip up so that the healthy Naaman appears above the water.



