

## Family Lesson 40

**Principle:** Humility, faith, and compassion.

**Bible Character(s):** Elisha, Naaman

**Scripture Reference:** 2 Kings 5

**1. Worship** - Gather your family and play the [worship video](#) found on the curriculum resource page! Have fun, sing loud, and follow along with the motions!

**2. Skit Video** - Watch the short [skit video](#) with your family to hear a special message about what you will be learning this weekend.

**3. Bible Lesson** - Read through the lesson with your family. The bold font is meant to be read aloud along with the Scripture references.

### Bible Lesson

**Who did we learn about last week?** (Elijah.) **Why was he tired and discouraged?** (Because Queen Jezebel wanted him dead for standing up against King Ahab and the prophets of Baal. Elijah lost sight of God's faithfulness and love for him.) **Was God angry at Elijah?** (No, God could have been angry but instead, he gave Elijah strength and encouragement. Then God said Elisha would become the next prophet after Elijah.) **What did Elisha help Elijah do?** (He helped Elijah make good decisions. God gave Elisha as a friend to Elijah to help him stay on the right track.)

Today we're going to read from 2 Kings 5 to see how God uses Elisha in the life of a man named Naaman. Elisha has taken Elijah's place as God's prophet, and Naaman is the commander of the Aramean army. He is a well-respected leader, but he has a skin disease called leprosy. In Naaman's time, people with leprosy were usually shunned by the community. That means that healthy people were afraid to be around them, so they had to live in a separate place for people with leprosy and other diseases.

Let's read about this story in the Bible in 2 Kings 5 [NLT].

### 2 Kings 5:2-3

*<sup>2</sup> At this time Aramean raiders had invaded the land of Israel, and among their captives was a young girl who had been given to Naaman's wife as a maid. <sup>3</sup> One day the girl said to her mistress, "I wish my master would go to see the prophet in Samaria. He would heal him of his leprosy."*

**What can you see about the young girl from this passage? Does she have faith in God?** (Allow responses.) **Yes, she has incredible faith in God. She shows courage to speak out to the woman she is serving because she believes in God's power and faithfulness to heal Naaman. This girl was probably around the same age as each of you. Do you think you would have had the courage to speak out for God if you were in her shoes? God can use each one of you to show his power and glory, even though you are young. What are some things that God calls you to do, as children, that show your faith in him?** (Telling others about Jesus and what he did for you, being friends with kids at school who seem a little different or that no one else likes, obeying your parents even when you don't feel like it, etc.) **Obeying God and serving others bring glory to him.**

**Naaman went to visit the prophet, Elisha. Let's continue reading the Bible to see what happens.**

### 2 Kings 5:9-11

*<sup>9</sup> So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and waited at the door of Elisha's house. <sup>10</sup> But Elisha sent a messenger out to him with this message: "Go and wash yourself seven times in the Jordan River. Then your skin will*

*be restored, and you will be healed of your leprosy.”*

*“But Naaman became angry and stalked away. “I thought he would certainly come out to meet me!” he said. “I expected him to wave his hand over the leprosy and call on the name of the Lord his God and heal me!”*

**Why do you think Naaman is angry?** (Allow responses.) **Naaman is a very important man in his country, and people treat him like a celebrity. Does Elisha go meet Naaman when he comes to his house? No, he sends a messenger to talk to Naaman. This makes Naaman angry because he thinks he is more important than other people. He thinks Elisha should talk to him face-to-face. Naaman is prideful; he thinks he is better than everyone else. He expects there to be a big cleansing ceremony that will show everyone how great he is but instead, Elisha asks him to do a small thing—wash himself in a river seven times.**

Show your child the [pictures](#) representing pride and humility found on Kids Resource Page. Talk about the differences you observe in the pictures and how they represent the characteristics of pride and humility. Work together to come up with words that describe examples of pride and examples of humility. See the examples below.

**Pride:** selfish, always wants own way, bosses others around, interrupts others, won't admit when wrong, brags, blames, holds grudges

**Humility:** unselfish, puts other first, listens to others, forgives, asks forgiveness, does not brag, thanks God

**What does pride look like? How would a prideful person act?** (Allow responses.) **Can you describe humility? What does humility look like? How would a humble person act?** (Allow responses.) **How is a prideful person different from a humble person? How does God want you to act and respond to others?** (Allow responses)

**God tells us in Ephesians 4:2 to “Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for others because of your love,” and in Philippians 2:3, “Don’t be selfish; don’t try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves.” We can see that God desires for us to have humble hearts. We should recognize that we are sinners and do not deserve anything, but God has been merciful and gracious to provide us with eternal life if we believe in Him.**

**Let’s continue reading the Bible to see what happens next in 2 Kings.**

### **2 Kings 5:13-15**

*<sup>13</sup> But his officers tried to reason with him and said, “Sir, if the prophet had told you to do something very difficult, wouldn’t you have done it? So you should certainly obey him when he says simply, ‘Go and wash and be cured!’” <sup>14</sup> So Naaman went down to the Jordan River and dipped himself seven times, as the man of God had instructed him. And his skin became as healthy as the skin of a young child’s, and he was healed!*

*<sup>15</sup> Then Naaman and his entire party went back to find the man of God. They stood before him, and Naaman said, “Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel. So please accept a gift from your servant.”*

**What do Naaman’s officers do?** (Allow responses.) **They show Naaman that his response was prideful and wrong. Do they think Naaman would have obeyed if the directions had been hard?** (Allow responses.) **Yes, they think he would have listened to Elisha if the directions were hard. They tell him he should follow Elisha’s small, simple instructions because obedience, even in small things, is most important to God. Do you remember how faithful the young girl was to tell Naaman about Elisha? That seemed like a small thing as well, yet it had a huge impact on many people. Naaman responded with pride to the instructions from Elisha, but he becomes**

humble after his officers tell him that he should obey the instructions.

Humility means that we do not think of ourselves as more important than anyone else; we put others' needs before our needs. When we are humble, we are willing to obey God and trust that His way is best, even when we do not understand it. Naaman humbled himself and obeyed what God wanted him to do by following Elisha's instructions. Naaman was faithful in the small act of washing himself seven times in the river, and God was faithful to heal him of his skin disease. **Let's do an activity that helps us understand the difference between being prideful and being humble in situations you might face every day.**

Read the following characteristics one at a time to your child. If the description is prideful, have them stand up with hands on hips. If the response is humble, have them sit quietly with hands folded.

**Characteristics:** kind, gives good directions, selfish, lies, blames others, listens to others, honest, makes good decisions, only does what he or she wants, prays to God before making decisions, confesses and repents, confesses and repents but keeps making the same choices.

**Can you relate to any of these characteristics?** (Allow responses.) **Maybe some of those examples have happened to you before. Can you think of an example when you have been proud? How did you act in that situation? How did people around you react?** (Allow responses.) **When we are prideful, we think that we are more important than other people. We think we should get what we want. We think we should be able to act however we want to act. We do not put others above ourselves. Pride is something that takes our eyes off of God and instead, turns them onto ourselves. Pride keeps us from learning to live like Jesus; it keeps us from experiencing the life God offers us.**

Can you describe a time when you have been humble? How did you act? How did other people react? (Allow responses.) **When we are humble, we put other people above ourselves because we do not see ourselves as more important than others. We choose other people's needs before our own, even when it means we do not get what we want. We love other people more than we love ourselves. In this way, we learn to live like Jesus.**

## Prayer

Spend some time in prayer to close with your child. Lord, we want to be like Jesus, but we can't do that without your help. Help us to be humble, faithful, and compassionate to others. Amen.

## Activity

### Humility, Faith, and Compassion

The purpose is to study what the Bible says about humility, faith, and compassion.

### Supplies:

[Worksheet](#) – "Humility, Faith, and Compassion" found on the Kids Resource Page.

Pens/pencils

Have your child complete the worksheet independently or with you.

**God wants us to be humble, faithful, and compassionate. He wants us to be humble so we can learn to be wise and live like Jesus. He wants us to have faith in him as our Creator, Provider, and Protector. He wants us to love others like he does so we can become more like Christ. He will help us to be humble, faithful, and compassionate.**

## Optional Additional Activity

### Verse Scramble

#### Supplies:

[Set of verse pieces](#) found on the Kids Resource Page.

Scramble the cards on the table. Then, unscramble the pieces to put the verse together in the correct order. "Pride leads to disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom."

**What does this verse say? "Pride leads to disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom." Do you know what disgrace means? (Allow responses.) Another word for disgrace is dishonor. Disgrace**

and dishonor mean being without honor or respect and covered with shame. So this verse is telling us that when we are prideful, it leads to having no honor or respect and instead being covered in shame. But if we are humble, we gain wisdom. Why do you think we gain wisdom by being humble? (Allow responses.) Being humble means to put others above yourself. Jesus is our best example of what it means to be humble; he gave up his life as a sacrifice for our sake. He loved us more than he loved himself. When we are humble, we begin to understand more about what it means to be like Jesus and how to live like him. We learn how to love others more than ourselves. This is how we gain wisdom. God wants us to put him first and to desire to live like Jesus did.

