



Be Essential for Jesus

Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

God Uses a Servant Girl

Obedience – God wants everyone to be ESSENTIAL for Jesus

Scripture

2 Kings 5:1-14

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master, because by him the Lord had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." So Naaman went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of Israel had said. And the king of Aram said, "Go then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel." He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments. He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his leprosy." When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me." But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel." So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean." But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage. But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean?'" So, he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.



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Bible Story - Available on YouTube through Aldersgate United Methodist Church and through the Susquehanna Conference at susumc.org

Family Chat Questions

- Do you think the servant girl was afraid? Why?
- Can God use anyone to do His work?
- What can you do to share God's word?
- What does it mean to be obedient? Who should you obey?
- How do you think Naaman felt when he received direction from a young girl?
- God will help us to develop our Spiritual Gifts and He gives us opportunities to use our gifts to serve others. What are some of your gifts? Why do you think that God has given you certain gifts and abilities?



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Family Activities

- Mirror Message - On a mirror or glass surface, use an erasable marker or toothpaste to write this week's message, so that everyone can see it and remember (Obedience – God wants everyone to be Essential for Jesus).
- Celebrate Sanitation Workers – Thank your sanitation workers by leaving a thank you card, meeting them with a cold bottle of water, blow bubbles to celebrate them, draw a thank you on your sidewalk or driveway, or come up with your own plan!
- Listening Walk – Use the list at the end of the packet to see how many of these sounds you can hear outside of your home; take a walk around or just sit outside. Sometimes listening can be quite a challenge!
- Scavenger Hunt – Complete the Bible story based scavenger hunt, found at the end of the packet.
- Being Essential for Jesus – Now's the time to spread the love of God! Discuss a God story or moment. A God moment is when something happens that we can't really explain – even if it's just for a quick second, we know that something greater has touched our lives. Take a moment to think about how or where God has touched your life. Who can you tell about God? - Send them a card with a positive message. Think of someone who doesn't know Jesus that you can add to your prayer list. List some things that you're good at or just enjoy doing. – How can you use this list to do something kind for your family or someone in your neighborhood? Consider picking up trash or baking cookies to share.



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Children's Independent Activities

- How Can You Obey God? – Draw a self-portrait and then list all around the picture different ways that you can obey God. Remember, listening to God may seem hard, but he wants you to follow His laws and be a good person. Here are some examples: Listen to Mom and Dad, Respect Others, Show Kindness, Help Another Person, Have Patience, etc... Add some of your gifts and abilities that God has given to you to serve others.
- Naaman Washes in the River Craft – you will need a paper/plastic cup, a popsicle stick/straw, and the Naaman template at the end of the packet. Cut out Naaman, glue him to the stick, and poke the stick through a hole in the bottom of the cup. "Wash" Naaman 7 times to cure him.
<https://ministryark.com/craft/naaman-cup-craft-2/>
- Wash It Away – with help from a grownup, make your own washable window paint. Create a fun painting for neighbors to enjoy but remember you must be obedient to God and your grownup by washing it away. <https://www.coffeecupsandcrayons.com/window-paint-recipe-kids/>
- Activity Sheets – activities and coloring sheets are included at the end of the packet.

Snack Time

List your seven favorite snacks and eat one each day saving your favorite for the seventh day.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____
- 6) _____
- 7) _____



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Closing Prayer

God we know that You are always there for us. Our ears are open – we will listen and be obedient. Show us how to use our gifts to spread Your love throughout our community and to teach others about Jesus. We pray for those who don't know You. We want them to feel Your love and to come to know Jesus. We pray for the sanitation workers and everyone who works so hard to keep our world clean and safe. We love You and thank You for all the gifts that You have given us. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Dive in Deeper

- Want to learn more about Spiritual Gifts? Contact your pastor about a Spiritual Gifts assessment.
- Families with preschool aged children may enjoy this slideshow story of Naaman and the Servant Girl <http://freebibleimages.org/illustrations/ls-naaman-girl/>
- Participate in your church's Family Challenge or Mission Project (where offered).
- YouVersion Bible app and The Bible app for kids, www.youversion.com or www.bible.com
 - YouVersion has many studies available for all ages
 - Try one of the many Ancora Kids Go 3 day Bible studies for kids
- Guardians of Ancora – free Bible based gaming app for kids ages 8-11yrs, <https://guardiansofancora.com/>
- Parent Cue – a parenting, faith-based, resource, www.theparentcue.org
- God for Kids app – helps parents and kids discover who God is, www.godforkidsapp.com
- Adventure Bible – web-based access to scripture and games for kids www.adventurebible.com



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Listening Walk

Go for a family walk or just sit outside. How many of these sounds can you hear? What sounds do you hear that are not on the list?

- 👂 Bird Tweeting
- 👂 Dog Barking
- 👂 Car Honking
- 👂 Airplane Overhead
- 👂 Bouncing Ball
- 👂 A Person Talking
- 👂 Wind Blowing
- 👂 Children Laughing
- 👂 Car Door Slamming
- 👂 Bee Buzzing
- 👂 Music – on a radio or from an instrument
- 👂 A Delivery or Garbage Truck



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Scavenger Hunt – God Uses a Servant Girl

After reading this week's scripture and watching the Bible story, see how many of these items you can find.

- A letter or a piece of mail
- Someone providing a service for someone else
- Something that helps you to be clean
- Something that floats
- Dirty water
- The Jordan River on a map
- An example of obedience to God
- A way to help someone today
- 7 books of the Bible
- 1 word for each letter in the word OBEDIENCE



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Naaman Washes in the River

Cut out both pictures of Naaman and attach one on each side of a popsicle stick or straw. Take a paper cup, have an adult poke a hole in the bottom, and then place the stick into the cup and through the hole. Wash Naaman 7 times by using the stick to push him in and out of the cup until he is healed! <https://ministryark.com/craft/naaman-cup-craft-2/>





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Activity Sheets



**Naaman
is healed.**
2 Kings 5:1-19

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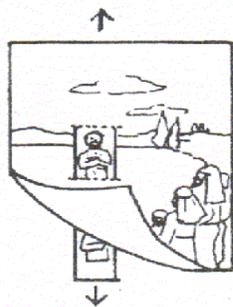


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Go Wash



Cut out pictures of Naaman and thread through illustration No. 15 as shown. Pull from behind so that Naaman disappears into the water, then bring him back up again. Do this seven times, allowing the children to count each time. On the seventh time, pull farther so that the "clean" Naaman is shown coming out of the water.