

# SABBATH SCHOOL

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## Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

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### Level K • Unit 4 • Week 2

## GOD HEALS US

### OBJECTIVE:

To point out that one of the ways God blesses us for obedience is through healing, using the story of Naaman and Elisha.

### ATTENTION GETTER:

Teacher can playact feeling sick. Say hello to each child in a mournful voice, then sit down and hold your head. Complain about feeling just awful. Ham it up so they know you're acting.

Teacher: What do you think I should do to feel better? *[Anticipated response: Go home, lie down, be anointed.]*

Teacher: Those all sound like good ideas. We need to be careful to take care of ourselves by resting when we don't feel well. Having a minister anoint us is also a good way to take care of ourselves. Have any of you been anointed? *[Anticipated response: No, yes.]*

Teacher: Did the minister wave his arms and call out for God to heal you? [Stand up and wave your arms about wildly.] *[Anticipated response: No.]*

Teacher: What was it like? *[Anticipated response: The minister put his hands on my head and prayed, and then we all said amen.]*

Teacher: Do you know why he did that? *[Anticipated response: To make me feel better, God told him to.]*

Teacher: Here are the directions God gave us in James 5:14 "Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord." When the minister touches your head, he has oil on his hand. Then he prays that God will heal you, just like the Bible tells him to. Does God promise to make

you feel better right away? *[Anticipated response: Yes, no.]*

Teacher: God does promise to heal us, but He doesn't say when or how. Sometimes He'll let us learn how to take better care of our bodies ourselves, and sometimes He'll heal us right away. He knows the best way and the best time. What's important for us to remember is that we need to follow God's directions and then trust Him to do what He promises. We're going to hear a story now about a man who lived long ago who became very sick and wanted God to heal him.

### **BIBLE LESSON:**

Supplies: Flannel board

Four male figures

Two male figures with crowns

A blue strip to be Jordan River.

Begin with one man (Naaman) and one king in the upper left hand corner. Put felt splotches on Naaman's skin to show the leprosy. Place the river along the right side of the board. Put the other king near the river. Place another man (Elisha) near the river, but not too close to the king.

Teacher: Our story is told in the Old Testament in the book of 2 Kings. The books 1 and 2 Kings tell the story of Israel after King David died. There were a lot of different kings who ruled Israel, and most of them were evil. They did not obey God. There was a prophet who lived in Israel, named Elisha. Does anyone know what a prophet is? *[Anticipated responses: Someone who knows what's going to happen, a man of God.]*

Teacher: A prophet is a man called by God and given special understanding of what God is doing and what He is going to do. Sometimes God gave a prophet special jobs to do. The other person in our story was named Naaman. He lived in a country close to Israel called Syria. He was a leader in the army of Syria, and his boss the king really liked him. *[Point out the king and Naaman on the board.]* But Naaman was sick. He had a disease called leprosy, which means something was wrong with his skin, with big sores all over. It's very painful, and back then the doctors didn't have a good way to take care of it to make it go away. Naaman heard a story about a prophet in Israel who could heal him of his leprosy. What do you think he did? *[Anticipated response: Tried to find the prophet.]*

Teacher: Does anyone remember the name of the prophet? *[Anticipated response: Elisha.]*

Teacher: That's right. He wanted to find Elisha, but didn't know how to find him. The only thing he knew was that Elisha lived in Israel, in an area called Samaria. So he told the king of Syria *[indicate the felt figure]*, the man he worked for, what he wanted to do. The king sent a letter to the king of Israel, *[indicate the felt figure, and move Naaman over to it]* where Elisha lived, but all he said was, "Here's my servant Naaman, and I want you to heal him of leprosy." Now the king of Israel didn't know how to heal anybody. He thought the other king

was trying to pick a fight with him. So the king of Israel was really upset. But God saw what was happening, and Elisha *[point out the felt figure]* heard about the king's problem. He sent a letter to the king, saying, "Why are you so upset? Send this man to me, and then he will know that there really is a prophet in Israel." Who was this prophet? *[Anticipated response: Elisha!]*

Teacher: Elisha acted a little strangely, though. He invited Naaman to come see him, but didn't even come to the door to talk to him. *[Remove Elisha and put the third man, Elisha's servant, in his place. Move the figure of Naaman over to the servant.]* Instead, he had his servant give some special directions to Naaman. He said, "Go and wash in the Jordan River seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you." That means he would be healed of the disease on his skin. How would you feel if you called the minister when you were sick, and his son came on the phone and told you to walk to your wading pool and sit down in it seven times? *[Anticipated response: Dumb, silly.]*

Teacher: I know I'd feel silly. So did Naaman. He had traveled all the way to another country to see this prophet, and instead of seeing him, he was told to go take a bath! He wanted Elisha to come out, wave his arms around and call out to God to heal poor Naaman. *[Feel free to raise your voice and raise your arms!]* At first he was really mad. If he wanted to bathe in a river, he would have stayed in his own country where the rivers were better than the Jordan! Naaman had some smart servants. *[Place last figure next to Naaman.]* Instead of getting upset too, they just asked Naaman a simple question. They said, "Elisha told you something easy to do. Would you rather he tell you to do something really hard?" Naaman thought about it, and decided that it really was easy to do, so he went to the Jordan and dipped himself in seven times. *[Move Naaman to river and count the seven dips out loud.]* What do you think happened? *[Anticipated response: he was healed, his skin got better.]*

Teacher: Exactly. *[Peel off the leprosy felt.]* God healed him and the Bible says his skin was like the skin of a little child. This was really exciting to Naaman. He might have called out like David did in Psalm 30:2, and said "O LORD my God, I cried out to You, and You healed me"! He decided that this God was the real God, and that he would worship Him from then on. He went to Elisha *[move felt figure]* and thanked him, and tried to give Elisha a special gift. Elisha knew the healing was from God, not him, and he said no thanks to the gift. So Naaman started back to Syria, a healed man who now knew who the real God was. Do you think God would have healed Naaman if he had gone back to Syria and bathed in the rivers there? *[Anticipated response: No.]*

Teacher: Why do you think God healed Naaman? *[Anticipated response: He did what Elisha told him to do.]*

Teacher: God loves it when we obey Him. Then He knows where our heart is, and that we really put Him first in our lives. I hope none of us gets as sick as Naaman but if we do, God tells us what to do. Do we need to go to a river and walk into it? *[Anticipated response: No!]*

Teacher: Does anyone remember what God tells us to do? *[Anticipated response: Call a minister and ask to be anointed.]*

Teacher: That's right. We ask to be anointed. We can also do things that will help us get better like getting our rest, eating properly, etc. We don't have to call for the minister every time we are not feeling well. But if we want God to heal us, we should call for an anointing. And when God makes us feel better, we can cry out too: "O LORD my God, I cried out to You, and You healed me"! Let's try it together:

Together: "O LORD my God, I cried out to You, and You healed me"!

### **LESSON APPLICATION:**

Supplies: One copy of Naamans and crowns for each child

Glue

Scissors

Sand, colored red if possible

Crayons

Craft sticks

Two pieces of construction paper for each child, green and blue

Directions:

Have children color both pictures of Naaman and the crowns. Cut them out. Spread some glue on the face, hands, and feet of the Naaman facing the right. Sprinkle sand on the glue to represent leprosy. Glue the two Naamans together with a craft stick between the two sides, the bottom of the stick extending under his feet, thus making a puppet figure.

Have the children cut a wide horizontal strip of blue construction paper to be the river. Glue it to the bottom of the green paper. Glue the two crowns on opposite top corners of the paper to represent the two kings involved in the story. An adult helper can cut a slit above the center of the river, following the river.

Demonstrate this to the children: Insert the leprous Naaman up into this cut line and, repeating the story, have him dip into the river seven times. The last time, flip him over to show clean skin, headed in the direction of home again.

### **MUSIC:**

Teacher's choice.

### **MEMORY VERSE:**

Psalms 30:2 "O LORD my God, I cried out to You, and You healed me."

# *family activity*

**THE POINT:**

To learn that one of the ways God blesses us for obedience is through healing, using the story of Naaman and Elisha.

**ASK ME...**

To use my Naaman puppet and background to tell you the story of Naaman and Elisha.

What does God want us to do when we're sick

**FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:**

Talk about instances of healing you know about.

Read stories about Jesus healing people. Talk about how God cares about people.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

Psalm 30:2 "O LORD my God, I cried out to You, and You healed me."

