

## **TOPIC: NAAMAN'S HEALING AND THE LESSONS HE LEARNT**

Naaman was the commander of the Syrian army, he had leprosy. He had tried different ways and things to be cured to no avail. An Israelite slave girl serving Naaman's wife suggested if Naaman could go to Samaria as there was a prophet who could heal his leprosy. Naaman took the girl's advice, collected a letter from Syrian king informing him of Naaman's coming and predicament. But as soon as the king of Israel got the letter, he tore his robes and said "Am I God? Can I kill and bring back to life? Why does this fellow send someone to me to be cured of his leprosy? See how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me!" Naaman knew not who to meet, he just knew that when he got to Israel he would be healed. When Elisha learnt of the king's unhappiness after receiving the letter he said to him: "Why have you torn your robes? Have the man come to me and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel."

When Naaman came to the gate of Elisha's house, Elisha sent his servant Gehazi to go and tell Naaman to go to river Jordan and dip himself there seven times. Naaman was not happy because he thought that Elisha would come and shout and call on the name of God and lay hands on him. He queried why he would dip himself in river Jordan when they had better rivers in their country. He left angry, unsatisfied and disappointed. He knew not what was faith. He thought that prayer was all about shouting.

Naaman's servant convinced him to obey the prophet since it was for his own good. Naaman did as Elisha instructed. On the seventh dip his skin became as fresh as new born child's skin. He reluctantly did it and God healed. His joy knew no bound. He and his attendants went back to Elisha to offer and show appreciation: "Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel. So please accept a gift from your servant." Elisha rejected the gift. It did not end there. Naaman said: "If you will not, please let me, your servant, be given as much earth (sand) as a pair of mules can carry, for your servant will never again make burnt offerings and sacrifices to any other god but the Lord. Naaman left not just with changed and clean body but with a repented and determined heart to serve the Lord.

## **Lessons Learnt by Naaman on his Healing**

1. He became convinced that God of Israel is the only true God
2. He learnt that prophets of Israel had power to heal and do miracles
3. He learnt that God is a forgiving God

## **EVALUATION**

1. Identify the moment when pride nearly spoiled the healing
2. Identify the happy ending in Naaman story.