

SAMARITAN'S PURSE WATER PROJECTS

Turning on the tap to safe water for communities. 

Samaritan's Purse Education Resources

Bible Lesson 5

The Samaritan's Purse Water Education resources are Bible-based teaching materials intended to teach biblical principles around the goal of providing safe water to the 663 million people around the world who do not have access to it.

Every 24 seconds a person is dying from diseases caused by contaminated drinking water, and we want to provide parents and teachers with Bible-based resources to educate children about Samaritan's Purse, the biblical principles behind our work, and how Canadians of all ages can help get safe water to those who need it.

Obeying God's Word

Age Group Children in grades K – 6

Leader A parent or teacher can lead children through this Bible lesson

Bible Focus The miraculous healing of Naaman in 2 Kings illustrates beautifully what happens when we obey God; no matter who we are – from the greatest man or woman to the smallest child – God wants us to heed His instructions

Objective We never know how God will work through us when we are listening to His instructions, especially when we love others as ourselves

Bible Verses 2 Kings 5 and focus on verses 1 – 18

Preparation The teacher or parent should read the story of Naaman, the leprous commander of the Syrian army (2 Kings 5:1-27) to be familiar with the passages of Scripture

Materials Materials needed depend on the optional activities in which the children participate; while preparing your lesson, please note which activities you would like to do.

Some activities will require you to download another PDF from the Samaritan's Purse Water Education Resources. Watch for this symbol:



Please note: in order to download PDFs, you must be connected to the Internet.

Lesson

More than 2,500 years ago, a miracle took place that shows us the importance of obeying God's instructions.

Imagine a very strong man who was the commander of a big army. He was used to telling people what to do. He gave advice to the king, and he was mighty and brave.

This man was called Naaman. But there was something unusual about Naaman – he was a respected, powerful man, yet he had a terrible skin disease on his body. Even with this skin disease, the Bible says he was a great man, because by him the Lord had given victory to a nation called Syria. Now Syria was an enemy nation towards God's people, the Israelites.

Naaman had many servants, and one servant was a little girl who he had captured and taken from her home in Israel. One day, this little girl went to Naaman's wife and told her that if Naaman went to the God's prophet Elisha in Israel, he would be cured of his disease.

So Naaman travelled to Israel with his horses and chariots, taking gifts of gold and beautiful clothes. He stood at the door of Elisha's house. Elisha didn't come outside, but sent a message to Naaman, telling him to go wash himself in the Jordan River seven times and his skin would be restored and the disease healed.

But Naaman became angry, because he thought the prophet Elisha would come out of his house to call upon the name of the Lord God, wave his hand over the disease and heal Naaman. He also thought the river waters of his country were better than the Jordan River. So Naaman turned and left in a rage.

But Naaman's servant, who was with him, came near to his master, asking him to obey God's instructions through Elisha and to wash in the river.

“So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy.” (2 Kings 5:14, NIV)



Optional Discussion

A parent or teacher poses questions to children. Help generate ideas with possible answers.

Questions: Why do you think Naaman was angry when Elisha didn't come out of his house? Why do you think Naaman didn't believe that washing himself in a river would heal his disease? Was it the river water that healed Naaman's disease or was it because he obeyed the word of God?

After Naaman washed in the river and was healed, he went back to Elisha and praised God, saying now he knew there was no God in all of the earth but in Israel.

At first, Naaman did not believe that following God's words from Elisha would heal him – it wasn't what he expected and he didn't want to obey. But finally, with the encouragement of his faithful servant, big, brave, tough Naaman obeyed Elisha's instructions to wash in the river. He was healed when he obeyed.

For Naaman, obeying God's instructions through the prophet Elisha resulted in his healing. For us, obeying God's instructions can mean many things. We can have better relationships with our friends and our families and when we obey God, other people can see His light shining in us. We also become aware of, and respond to, other people's needs – even people we don't know who live far away from us.

But how can we obey God? What are ways we can obey His instructions?

Here is one of Jesus' most important instructions to us: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and love your neighbor as yourself. (Luke 10:27, NIV)

So how do we show our love for God? One way is by obeying His instructions, like Naaman did. And God has instructed us to love our neighbors like we love ourselves. But how do we do this?

One way is helping people who are in need of help. There are many people around the world who do not have enough to eat or who are very sick. There are children like you around the world who don't have safe water to drink, so they are drinking out of dirty ponds and rivers.



Optional Discussion

Parent or teacher poses questions to children. Help generate ideas with possible answers.

Questions: Who do you think is your neighbor? Is it just the people who live next door to us? What about classmates? What about people who hurt us or are mean to us? What about children living in other countries?



Optional Impact Story

If time allows, a parent or teacher can read one or more stories of children in Southeast Asia, and how the lack of safe water affects them.



Download:

Story [Children Around The World-Asia](#)

How can we show love to people – our neighbors – who are sick and don't have safe drinking water?

Many people are showing that love by helping to provide them with a BioSand Filter, which uses a special biological process designed by God to filter dirty, contaminated water and take out the bacteria and germs. With a BioSand Filter, people have safe, delicious water to drink, so they don't get sick from drinking dirty water.

In Canada we are blessed to be able to turn on the tap and drink safe water. If we love good-tasting drinking water, wouldn't we love for our neighbors to also have safe drinking water? By giving someone safe water in the Name of Jesus, we are loving them as we love ourselves and doing as Jesus asked us to.

Activity

In Class

Have children complete the activity for their age group.

Download:  [Obeying God's Word-Artwork](#) (Grades K-2)
[True or False Race](#) (Grades 3-6)

Optional Take-Home Activity

Download:  [Loving Others List.](#)

Each child should use the Loving Others List at home over a week (or a set period of time.) Each child should mark down each time he or she obeys Jesus' instructions to love our neighbor as ourselves. See the PDF for suggestions a teacher or parent can give to children about what they could mark down.

This is intended to be a personal spiritual development activity and should not be treated as a competition. However, to engage discussion, the parent or teacher can gather children after a set period of time and ask if there are some who would like to share **one** example of how they loved their neighbor.

Ways to Respond

- Ask children to pray that they will listen to God’s instruction and love others like they love themselves
- Challenge the children to think about ways they could help people around the world who do not have safe drinking water
- Encourage children to talk to their parents or friends about how other kids are forced to drink dirty, contained water



A Step Further

Help provide a family in the developing world get safe drinking water as a class, group, or individual. We have ideas for fundraising – from small stewardship activities to large fundraising campaigns – available online at www.SamaritansPurse.ca in the creative fundraising section.

Suggested fund-raising activities to go with this Bible lesson:



Download:

[Chores and Allowance](#)

[Loonie for Clean Water](#)

[Provide a Family With Clean Water](#)