

**ELISHA (2)****2 Kings 5:1–6:23; Luke 4:27****Memory Verse:** *The blood of Jesus [God's] Son cleanses us from all sin* (1 John 1:7b ESV).**Background Helps:**

This week's readings include three stories:

1. The healing of Naaman's leprosy (2 Kings 5). Jesus referred to this event in Luke 4:27, emphasizing the fact that Naaman was a Gentile. The story is told in several parts: (a) the witness of the Israelite slave girl to Naaman's wife (vv. 1-4); (b) the humbling and cleansing of Naaman (vv. 5-14); (c) Naaman's request for pardon for participating in the worship of Rimmon (vv. 15-19); and (d) the sequel of Gehazi's greed and punishment. Read *Faith in the Face of Apostasy*, pages 110-120.<sup>1</sup>
2. The miracle of the floating axe head (2 Kings 6:1-7). Read the excellent commentary on this incident in *Faith in the Face of Apostasy*, pages 121-127, emphasizing a God-centered approach to interpreting this story.
3. Miracles of hearing, sight and blindness (2 Kings 6:8-23). Notice the good comments about spiritual warfare in *Faith in the Face of Apostasy*, pages 127-133.

**Lesson Helps:**

The diversity of the stories in this week's readings suggest a number of alternative aims and emphases for your lesson:


1. My students will learn about the miracles of Elisha, the man of God, so that they will believe that the LORD is the one true God. With this aim the teacher could survey all the stories in the readings, showing that Elisha's miracles demonstrate that the LORD, the God of Israel, is the one true God. Contrast the false god of Syria.
2. My students will learn about the grace of God in cleansing the leprosy of Naaman in 2 Kings 5, so that they will humble themselves to receive God's cleansing from sin in their own lives. This lesson focuses on the story of Naaman in 2 Kings 5, making a spiritual application. The memory verse (1 John 1:7) fits well with this lesson. Also, consider using James 4:6, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble"—a truth illustrated by Naaman's change of heart. The sequel of Gehazi's punishment shows us that God is serious about safeguarding his plan of salvation by grace. See the excellent comments in *Faith in the Face of Apostasy*, pages 110-120.
3. My students will learn about the witness of the Israelite slave girl to Naaman's wife, so that they will bear witness of God's grace and power to others. This lesson aim would be ideal for classes of young children. The teacher could tell the story of Naaman (2 Kings


<sup>1</sup> Raymond B. Dillard, *Faith in the Face of Apostasy* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R Publishing Company, 1999).

5:1-14) but with emphasis on the role played by the young slave girl. Her bold witness, even to an adult, resulted in the cleansing of a Gentile general!

4. My students will learn about the miracle of the floating axe head (2 Kings 6:1-7), so that they will trust God with the everyday problems of life. Again, see the excellent comments in *Faith in the Face of Apostasy*, pages 121-127.
5. My students will learn about the miracles of hearing, sight and blindness in 2 Kings 6:8-23, so that they will trust God in their spiritual battles. This aim emphasizes the fact that behind the scenes of our physical conflicts lies an even greater spiritual reality (see 2 Kings 6:17 and Ephesians 6:10-20). Help your students to see that they are engaged in a great spiritual conflict and that they can win the victory by faith (see 1 John 5:4-5).

**Home Assignment:**

 Read 2 Kings 6:24–8:15

 Memorize Isaiah 46:11b ESV.