

Questions on 2 Kings 5

1. Can you think of a time when your prayers for a person who was not a Christian have been answered? What was the outcome?
2. When Jesus preached at the synagogue in Nazareth (see Luke 4:16-30) what do you think made the people so angry that would try to kill him?
3. Read 2 Kings 5: 1-19a. Imagine the situation of the little girl? What might it have been like for her and her family? Why did she take the initiative in the cure of her mistress's husband?
4. Have you been involved in significant actions and not been recognised by name? How did it feel?
5. The writer's assessment of the character of Naaman is quite positive. Why? Can you think of people who are not Christians whose character you admire?
6. Why was the prophet so rude to Naaman?
7. Have you been treated by someone in the same way that Naaman was treated by Elisha? How did you feel?
8. What does the saying "cut off your nose to spite your face" mean? How might it apply to Naaman? Have there been circumstances in which it may have applied to you?
9. There are two possible translations of verse 13:
 - a. But his servants came near and said to him, "My father, it is a great word the prophet has spoken to you; will you not do it? Has he actually said to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?"
 - b. 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'?"
 - c. What is the difference between the two? How might each possibility inform us as to our behaviour?
10. Why would Elisha not accept Naaman's gift?
11. Was Elisha right to approve of Naaman accompanying his master, the king, when the king worshipped in the pagan temple of Rimmon? Do you know of similar situations in our own time?
12. Read 2 Kings 5 19b-27. What motivated Gehazi to attempt to get wealth from Naaman? How might he have justified his behaviour to himself?
13. Can you think of situations where a small lie or half-truth had led to difficulties?
14. Was Gehazi's punishment appropriate? What if God were to act in that way today (see 1 Corinthians 11: 29-30)?