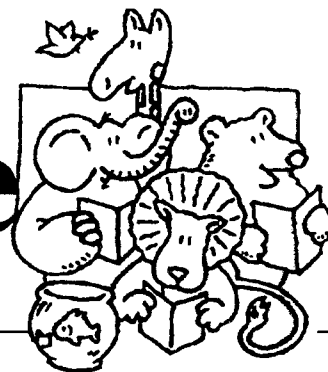




Saving Faith  
Series 4—Lesson 2

# StoryTime



## Seven Down and Seven Up

### Primary 3–7

#### Bible Text:

2 Kings 5:1–14

#### Lesson Aim:

To teach children that our  
faith and actions touch other  
lives. We must live our faith.

#### Memory Verse:

"So faith comes by  
hearing...the Word of God"  
(Romans 10:17).

#### Words to Learn:

- Conduct
- Contagious
- Temper

Always Close in Prayer

## The Teacher's Bible Study

Faith deals with belief in God's promises about the future, as well as our day-to-day relationship with God. It is trust in "things not seen." Naturally, this faith is not blind; it grows by contact with the Creator. Romans 10:14,17, says, "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?...So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." Faith is built on *hearing*, *believing*, and *obeying* in genuine conviction. It grows from many things.

We see God's hand in the majesty of creation all around us. We can read the history of God's interaction with mankind in the Bible, and begin to understand the deep love of God for the form of life He made in His image. Finally, each must accept, or reject, our glorious destiny—to be BORN into the family of God!

This faith is believing that God will not fail; being sure of what we hope for, and certain of what we do not see (Hebrews 11:1). We begin by believing and are sustained by this belief.

To have real faith does not mean that one will *never* question his or her beliefs. Doubt is a normal human characteristic, and even the truly begotten Christian is not immune from it. Yet one can contest doubt, not by deluding oneself, but by reaffirming reality. One should return to the fundamentals of biblical belief—to one's first love. Doubt does not need to undermine faith, but true faith can surmount doubt.

It is this kind of belief that brings us to the point of baptism. Baptism is our outward action or testimony that tells the world we have an inward faith in our Savior, Jesus Christ. Our symbolic death—being buried and raised from a watery grave—identifies us as children of the Father, CHILDREN OF THE RESURRECTION! Jesus is called the *FIRST*born of the Father. This is not only a title it is also the description of the first human changed from flesh to spirit. And like Christ's own resurrection from the grave, Christians will be changed at His return to be truly BORN into the God Family—more sons and daughters of the God of Life! Can you imagine it?

This deep personal faith in Jesus Christ—that Jesus is the Savior, that

His death paid the penalty of our personal sins, that we need to repent, that we need the water and the blood of Christ to make us whole—comes from God. Faith is the full and complete confidence in the message Jesus brought of the coming Kingdom of God. Isn't this great love magnificent?

### **I Don't Doubt That**

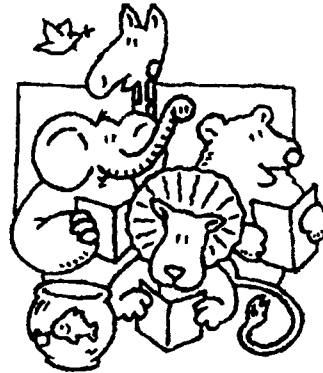
However, faith is still a choice, even though it is a GIFT from God. Like the gift of salvation, you have to choose to take the gift. Paul said that we are, "justified *by faith* in Christ" (Galatians 2:16).

Today's story is about a young Hebrew slave girl who had faith. She did not keep her faith to herself. Apparently the young Hebrew girl, who served Naaman and his wife in our story was treated well. When Naaman's wife was sad about her husband's illness, the young girl was quick with an encouraging suggestion: "Go see the man of God, Elisha." Naaman also chose to believe that he could be helped. He heard, listened, and finally obeyed, and was healed.

While the Bible does not give the young girl's name, the determined faith and actions of this one seemingly insignificant person encouraged a powerful enemy of Israel to seek the God of Elisha for healing. Now *that* is astonishing!

Remember, our lives do impact others. God works through His servants, and we are servants of God. □

# Simple as 1,2,3...



## **1. Additional Reading for Teacher Study**

James 2:14-26

## **2. Are You Listening?**

*After you read or tell the story you may ask the following questions:*

1. *True or false:* A prophet told Naaman about Elisha—**FALSE**
2. *True or false:* Naaman was a Syrian—**TRUE**
3. *True or false:* The Syrians were friends of Israel—**FALSE**
4. *True or false:* Naaman acted in faith—**TRUE**
5. *True or false:* Naaman brought gifts for Elisha—**TRUE**
6. *True or false:* Naaman ordered Elisha to come to him—**FALSE**
7. *True or false:* Elisha met Naaman at the door and instructed Naaman to go take a bath at home—**FALSE**
8. *True or false:* Naaman was healed—**TRUE**

## **3. Word Definitions**

These definitions were taken from *Webster's New World Dictionary*.

- Conduct**—personal way of behavior
- Contagious**—carrying or spreading an infectious illness
- Temper**—your disposition toward others (example: "he's a *good* tempered person," or "she's a *bad* tempered person").

# SKY Story Time

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## Seven Down, Seven Up

**T**here once was a young girl taken from her home in Israel by enemies from Syria. She became a slave in the household of a powerful and influential man. He was the commander of the army of the Syrian king. This commander's name was Naaman. He was a valiant soldier and the Syrian king trusted him.

However, in spite of being well known and powerful, Naaman contracted a terrible disease called *leprosy*. His position and favor with a king could not buy him health.

Leprosy is a sickness that can cripple and disfigure its victims. Leprosy is also very contagious. The sick person is isolated—away from contact with family, friends, and day-to-day society. They become outcasts. Naaman thought there was no one that could help him. His family, friends, and neighbors could not make him well. Not even the king could help poor Naaman.

Naaman was about to learn that help sometimes comes from unexpected places. In this instance it came not from the might, or the powerful or the rich; it came from a servant.

### Kindness Repaid

Now Naaman's wife was a kind woman, and treated her servants well. When the young servant girl first came into the home of Naaman and his wife, the servants who had served the couple for many years assured the young girl she would have a gentle mistress, even though the master could be impatient and short tempered.

However, they reassured her that Naaman was

just **LOUD**, not mean. His flashes of temper were short lived, and He wouldn't hit you, or be cruel.

One morning Naaman's wife was sitting quietly in her garden. The little girl watched her. She knew why her mistress was so still, because all the slaves in the house had been whispering about the bad news of the master's illness.

The little slave girl walked quietly up to her mistress and asked to speak to her. She told her there was a man of God in Samaria who could heal her husband. She went on to tell her mistress of the many miracles God had done through this man. She told her that the man's name was Elisha.

One thing was leading to another, and this Syrian was about to be introduced to the God of Israel.

### A Syrian in Samaria

Namaan's wife then took the little girl's hand and they went quickly to find Naaman. Naaman listened to the girl and felt hope start to burn within his heart. He immediately *acted in faith* on what he had heard.

Namaan went to the king to ask permission to go into Samaria to find this man Elisha. Captain Naaman told the king what the young Hebrew girl had said. The king said, "Go! I will send a letter to the King of Israel telling him why you are in his country."

Naaman then set out to find Elisha. He took silver and gold, and ten sets of fine clothing as gifts for Elisha.

### Cool Off Naaman

Naaman went to the king of Israel and presented him with the letter he carried from King Aram.

"Cure him of his leprosy?" the king raged after he read the letter. "Does he think I am God?"

The king thought this was a sly way of provoking an argument between kings. Naaman's spirit must have sunk very low, and he was very disappointed.

But Elisha heard about this and sent word to the king to send Naaman to him. Captain Naaman, and with his men mounted their chariots and horses, and eagerly set off for Elisha's house.

They arrived in a clamor of noise. Naaman dismounted and approached the house with his soldiers behind him and suddenly out of the house came a man to greet them. But he was a servant!

Naaman was then given a short message. The message was to "go wash yourself seven times in the Jordan River and you will be restored and cleansed."

Naaman stared at the servant. "That's IT?" Perhaps Naaman expected a grand speech, or solemn ceremony to be performed; maybe a little thunder or lightning.

Naaman's response was quick anger. His hopes had been so high, and now he felt like a fool. He turned and left quickly. They began the long journey home and came to the River Jordan. There they stopped to rest.

Naaman climbed down off his horse and sat looking into the water. His anger had evaporated and he felt very tired.

Fortunately a servant of Naaman's came and sat beside him and wisely began to reason with his master by saying, "If Elisha had asked you to do something GREAT, you WOULD have done it. All he told you to do is wash in the Jordan River. At least give it a try, because you do want to be well."

So Naaman, all anger gone,

went down to the Jordan River and dipped seven times just as he had been told to do. After the seventh time, the flesh on Naaman's body looked like that of a little child. He was restored to good health.

Naaman, the Syrian soldier was humbled before the greatness of God. He looked up into the heavens and thanked God for his healing.

### Think About This

It is a strange and wonderful thing to watch how the tiny little seed of faith can grow into something very, very big.

We do not know the name of the little girl in our story. But many lives were changed forever by the faith and testimony of a young girl. So always remember: Our lives can be used to lead others to Christ—the God of Israel.

Isn't God wonderful? □

### Crafty Idea

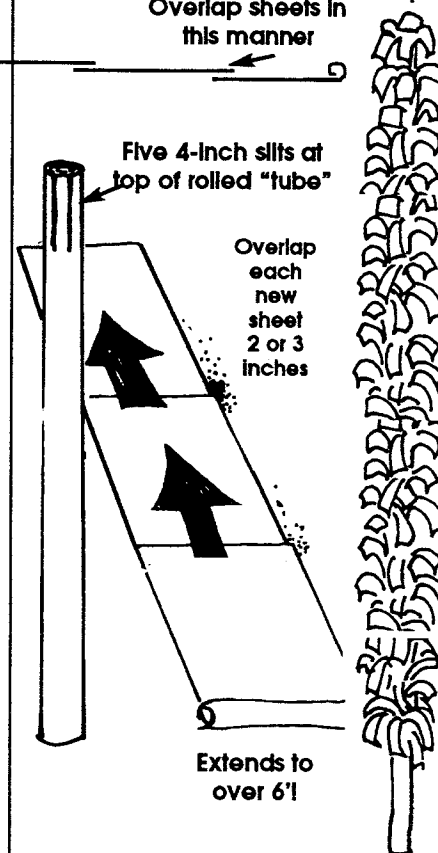
**S**pread a newspaper out flat, and, starting from the bottom edge, begin to roll the newspaper. Stop 2 or 3 inches from the top and overlap another sheet of paper—do this four more times—to make a long skinny tube (see example). Make five 4-inch cuts at the "top" of the tree. Hold the base of the tree and have someone use their thumbs to pull the inside layers up and out. The tree will grow and grow to about six feet. Secure the bottom with rubberbands or masking tape.

Grow your tree of faith and be reminded of Naaman!

## Crafty Ideas

### Growing a Faith Tree

Overlap sheets in this manner



Five 4-inch slits at top of rolled "tube"

Overlap each new sheet 2 or 3 inches

Extends to over 6'

### Materials To Use:

- Newspaper
- Ruler
- Rubberbands or masking tape
- Scissors