



# Sermon Growth Guide

**March 23, 2025**

**“Washed”**

**2 Kings 5:1-5, 9-15b**

**Key Verse:** 2 Kings 5:14

“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.”

**Big Idea:** The prophet Elisha’s instructions plus the faith of unnamed servants equals a great miracle: the healing and conversion of Naaman.

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## Foundations

At this time in history, the Divided Kingdom of Israel was ruled by Baal-worshipping Kings. But the greed, injustice, and idolatry were trickling down into the lives of God’s fallen people. Because of this, God didn’t seem to be intent on blessing Israel; He was actually blessing Aram (Syria)! The chapter begins by telling us the Lord had handed over victory to Aram (Syria).

And yet, God’s prophets continued speaking truth and performing miracles in a very lost nation. The prophet Elisha steps onto the scene following his mentor, Elijah. His job: to confront the kings for their disobedience and to instill some glimpse of hope in Yahweh.

When Naaman, a highly regarded commander in Aram, is diagnosed with a debilitating and painful skin disease, God intercedes. Naaman was willing to do anything to be healed, including using his political connections, wealth and expertise. But it is the voice of an Israelite girl whom he had captured—as well as the encouragement of his faithful servants—that lead him to do what the prophet Elisha prescribes: go wash yourself in the Jordan river seven times. Naaman’s pride and entitlement had to be laid down in order for him to receive the miracle. Once again, the God of Israel chooses to communicate His love to the entire world—a love without boundaries or borders; a love that cleanses, heals, and restores.

## Understanding God’s Word

Read together 2 Kings 5:1-3, 13. Naaman’s money and status weren’t helping his problem; the gods and prophets of Aram didn’t have a solution, either. But an unnamed slave girl was watching his struggle first-hand. She decides to boldly share her faith in Yahweh and his miracle-working prophet, Elisha. Later in the passage, we hear Naaman’s servants speak up as well, encouraging him to reconsider his choice because the God of Israel could heal him. What do you think this girl had to risk in telling her mistress about Elisha? What role did the servants play in his conversion?

## Applying God’s Word

We often focus on Naaman’s pride and self-reliance in this story. Yes, both held him back until he was willing to surrender and humbly follow Elisha’s instructions. Pride, pain, and even bitterness could have stopped the slave girl or the servants from helping Naaman, too. What stops us from sharing our faith with those who may have hurt us; or with those who are of a different status or belief?

## Witnessing God’s Word

Think of someone you know whose conversion would “take a miracle.” What is stopping you from telling them about Christ’s healing power today? How can you encourage them to surrender to Him?