

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

Show kindness to others, even those who do not deserve it.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that a hero for God shows kindness to others even when they don't deserve it.

KEY PASSAGE:

2 Kings 5:1-15, Naaman's Servant

MEMORY VERSE:

"So the last will be first, and the first will be last." Matthew 20:16 (NIV)

SUMMARY:

Naaman was a powerful man who was not one of God's people. His men had captured a young Israelite girl and she was made to become a servant in Naaman's house. This young girl could have hated Naaman. She could have been angry and disrespectful. But instead, this girl chose to be kind. When she found out Naaman was sick, she told him about a prophet of God who could help heal him. Because of her kindness, Naaman learned that God is the one, true God.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Give us kind hearts toward everyone we meet.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

MEMORY VERSE

"So those who are last will be first. And those who are first will be last." Matthew 20:16 (NirV)

"So the last will be first, and the first will be last." Matthew 20:16 (NIV)

"So those who are last now will be first then, and those who are first will be last." Matthew 20:16 (NLT)

"So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen." Matthew 20:16 (KJV)

LARGE GROUP:

Have all the fifth/sixth graders (whatever the oldest age in the room may be) read the verse first. Then add the next grade down and repeat. Add the next grade down, and repeat. Keep repeating until everyone is reading together.

SMALL GROUP:

Go around the group in a circle and have each kid read one word of the verse until the whole verse has been read. Do it two or three times, see how fast you can go.

SKIT

THE GOOD SERVANT

ITEMS NEEDED:

A “BibleCon” sign (see description below)
A table and chair set up for autographs
An autograph book
A garbage bag
Some empty bottles and trash

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

1M, 1F

CHARACTERS:

Ernie - A Bible fan
Lydia - Naaman’s Servant

A table is set up on stage with some sharpies and photos on top. A sign on the front of the table says, “BibleCon Welcomes Job.” There’s some empty soda bottles and trash scattered on the table. Lydia enters and starts to pick up the trash. Ernie enters.

ERNIE: Excuse me, I’m looking for one of the lady heroes. Can you help?

LYDIA: I can try. Ruth is down that way by the T-shirt shop, and Esther is in the VIP section next to David.

ERNIE: No, I’m not looking for them. This one was a girl. She was a servant of some guy. Actually, she might have been a prisoner. She worked for a man who was not one of God’s people.

LYDIA: You’re looking for a slave?

ERNIE: Maybe. She was someone who looked out for others, even though sometimes, they might not deserve it.

LYDIA: Was her master’s name Naaman?

ERNIE: That’s it!

SKIT

LYDIA: Well, then you found your hero.

ERNIE: You?

LYDIA: (*seals up the bag of trash*) That's right. I'm Naaman's servant. But my family called me Lydia.

ERNIE: Wow, you're Naaman's servant?

LYDIA: Yep.

ERNIE: So why are you cleaning all this trash off Job's table?

LYDIA: Funny story. Earlier today, Moses came walking through this part of the convention. A whole mob of people came up to get autographs, and while they were doing that...

ERNIE: Everybody dumped their trash on your table.

LYDIA: You got it.

ERNIE: That's not fair. You shouldn't have to clean it up. They should. I mean, this isn't even your table! (*snaps his fingers – gets it*) But that's not who you are, is it?

LYDIA: Job's had enough hardship in his life without having to deal with this mess. And yes, that is who I try to be. Like my grandmother always told me, "Be kind to others. Love them as the Lord loves you, whether they deserve it or not." God has been so kind to me, even when I didn't deserve it. Why shouldn't I love other people the same way?

ERNIE: Wow. I can't imagine loving people that much. Sometimes people do things that make it very hard to love them.

LYDIA: You don't have to tell me that. I lived it. But with God's help, I was able to be kind and show love even in my circumstances.

ERNIE: Do you mind if I ask for your autograph?

LYDIA: Not at all. Shall I sign my real name, or just "Naaman's servant?"

ERNIE: Can you sign both? I want to remember this, so I can learn to love others like you do.

Lydia signs his book.

SKIT

LYDIA: There you go.

ERNIE: Thanks. (*grabs the trash bag*) And I'll take care of this for you.

LYDIA: Thanks, Ernie. Way to be a hero!

OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

A bag of litter

Prior to this lesson, take a grocery bag and head to the park or a parking lot, and fill it with litter.

Do you guys see all this trash? This trash is not mine. I found it all in a park/ parking lot. The people who carelessly tossed this on the ground weren't thinking about who could come in after them and clean up. They didn't feel like holding onto their trash or even walking to a trash can, so without any thought at all, they littered. This stuff might still be on the ground if it wasn't for me.

Did I deserve to pick up this trash? No. But I also don't deserve the love God has given me. I wanted to pick up this trash to show you that we can show love to others, even when they don't deserve it. We can pray with someone who bullies us, when they are having a bad day. We can show kindness to a coach who is hard on us. We can share God's love with everyone, no matter who they are or what the circumstances.

God sent Jesus to die for our sins. We didn't deserve to be saved, but God did it anyway. Let's commit ourselves to serving others with the same love so that they can see God's love in our actions.

LARGE GROUP GAME

RECYCLED HOOPS

ITEMS NEEDED:

Ten empty soda bottles
A bucket or trash can

INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose several players for this game. Each player will have the chance to shoot ten soda bottles into the bucket or trashcan from a distance of 10 feet. The player who shoots the most hoops wins.

VARIATION:

Any type of trash will work for this, from bottles to paper wads. But the more awkward to toss the item is, the more fun it will be.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

True heroes go above and beyond serving others.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

Show kindness to others, even those who do not deserve it.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that a hero for God shows kindness to others even when they don't deserve it.

KEY PASSAGE:

2 Kings 5:1-15

INTRO:

There is a man in Marvel comics who despises Spider-Man more than anything else in the world. He hates Spider-Man more than any super-villain ever could. Spider-Man has some notorious villains in his rogues gallery, including the Green Goblin, Mysterio, Dr. Octopus, and the Rhino, but this ordinary man with no super powers and no super weapons uses his words to spread his dislike for the web slinger constantly.

The man's name is J. Jonah Jameson. He's the editor of a newspaper (now website) called The Daily Bugle. Ever since he became a part of the Spider-Man comics, J. Jonah Jameson has been on a crusade to destroy Spider-Man. No matter how much good Spidey does for New York City, no matter how many times he saves others and defeats the villain, J. Jonah Jameson continues to tell people that the real villain is Spider-Man. He's a menace! A web crawling freak! He should be behind bars!

The funny thing is, there have been times when J. Jonah Jameson found himself in trouble. He's nearly died in the Spider-Man stories many times at the hands of Spider-Man's real enemies. What does Spider-Man do in these circumstances, when he sees J. Jonah Jameson in trouble? He does what is right. He saves him! Deep down, Spider-Man knows there's no chance J. Jonah Jameson will ever change his mind about Spider-Man, and yet... Spider-Man never fails to swing in and save the day, even for J. Jonah Jameson.

J. Jonah Jameson doesn't deserve Spidey's help. He's mean. He's hard-headed. He will never get it. But Spider-Man knows a hero helps people in need whether they deserve it or not. Our unknown hero of the day knew this as well. She was an Israelite girl who is described as a servant but may have been a slave. We do not know her name, but we know the name of her master – Naaman.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

Naaman was a commander in the army of Aram, one of the enemies of Israel. He was not one of God's chosen people, but he was a man loved by God. This is the story of how one girl's love for her master, a man who might not have deserved much love, saved his life.

READ 2 KINGS 5:1-15

MAIN POINT:

Leprosy was a terrible disease. It was incurable, and people who caught it became outcasts from society. It was very contagious, and anyone who had leprosy was eventually cast out of the city to suffer alone. Naaman had to be very sad to hear this, and our hero, the young Israelite girl, took compassion on him. It was she who suggested Naaman go and see the prophet, and when Naaman reacted with anger to the prophet's instructions, no doubt she was one of the servants urging him to listen to obey the prophet. Because of her love, not only did Naaman find a way to be cured, He was cured of his disease!

The servant girl could have stayed quiet. She could have taken delight in watching this enemy of her people suffer. That's not who she was. She loved Naaman as God loved her. She chose to tell him that her God could give him healing. This faithful child shows us that we can be heroes by loving others, even though they do not deserve it.

DRIVE IT HOME:

It's so hard to love others, even in the best circumstances. The opportunities we have to show real love to our friends often comes at a price. Love takes sacrifice, whether it's of our time, our talents, or our money. Our acts of sacrifice show our friends and loved ones we care. It's not easy, but we do it because we love them.

It's not so easy to show that kind of love to someone who doesn't deserve it. I'm sure you can all think of classmates who make life hard on you. Maybe it's bullying. Maybe they're part of the cool crowd who look down on others. Maybe they're the kids always defying authority and getting into trouble with the teachers. But Naaman's Servant shows us that if we want to be heroes, we will learn to show love and compassion to the hard-to-love kids and even the hard-to-love adults in our lives.

One way we can remember to love others is to remember what Jesus did for us. We did not deserve to have our sins forgiven. We did not deserve a hero who would save us from the punishment for our sin. But what did Jesus do? He gave His life for us! If Jesus, who never sinned, died to save us who are sinners, how much more should we be willing to love the hard-to-love people in this world?

Saving J. Jonah Jameson never did Spider-Man and good, but he did it anyway.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

Saving Naaman would not set his servant free or cause him to leave his station as an enemy of Israel, and yet, she loved him enough to tell him how to be cured. It doesn't matter whether or not that hard-to-love person we know changes because of our actions. What matters is that we love them and serve them, meeting their needs just as Jesus met our needs. Love made Naaman's servant a hero. Love can make us true heroes of the faith!

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Give us kind hearts toward everyone we meet.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

What is one nice thing you did for someone this past week?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Matthew 20:16

Go around the group in a circle and have each kid read one word of the verse until the whole verse has been read. Do it two or three times, see how fast you can go.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Play a game of Musical Chairs to get everyone up and moving.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read 2 Kings 5:1-15

Who was Naaman?

What was Naaman's problem?

Who told Naaman to go and see the prophet?

What makes Naaman's servant a hero?

Why do we need to be helpful to everyone, even people who do not deserve it?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to serve others who are in need, no matter who they are.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:

What is one nice thing you did for someone this past week?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Matthew 20:16

Go around the group in a circle and have each kid read one word of the verse until the whole verse has been read. Do it two or three times, see how fast you can go.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Play a game of Musical Chairs to get everyone up and moving.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read 2 Kings 5:1-15

What was Naaman's problem?

Why did Naaman's servant tell Naaman to go see the prophet?

Why do you think she choose to help Naaman instead of staying quiet?

Why do we need to be helpful to everyone, even people who do not deserve it?

What are some things we can do to become more helpful to other people?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to serve others who are in need, no matter who they are.

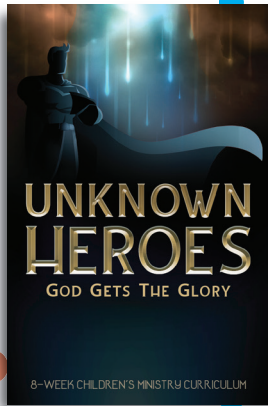
In Jesus' name,

Amen

POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Who was Naaman?
A. A soldier*
B. A prophet
C. A servant
2. What disease did Naaman have?
A. Cancer
B. Leprosy*
C. Measles
3. Who told Naaman to see the prophet of God?
A. One of his troops
B. Another prophet
C. An Israelite servant girl*
4. Naaman's servant chose to help Naaman even though _____.
A. he served an enemy of Israel
B. she was probably a slave
C. both A and B*
5. God wants us to show love to who?
A. Everyone.*
B. Our brothers and sisters in Christ.
C. Good people.



MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

Unknown Heroes Lesson 3

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: NAAMAN'S SERVANT



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

Naaman was a powerful man who was not one of God's people. His men had captured a young Israelite girl and she was made to become a servant in Naaman's house. This young girl could have hated Naaman. She could have been angry and disrespectful. But instead, this girl chose to be kind. When she found out Naaman was sick, she told him about a prophet of God who could help heal him. Because of her kindness, Naaman learned that God is the one, true God. 2 Kings 5:1-15



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Take some time this week to help someone in need - a friend, a neighbor, or a relative - and take your kids along to help. Ask them how it feels to love someone by serving them.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- What did Naaman's servant do for her master?
- Why is she a hero?
- Why does God want us to show love to people even if they do not deserve it?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

"So the last will be first, and the first will be last." Matthew 20:16 NIV



PARENT TIME:

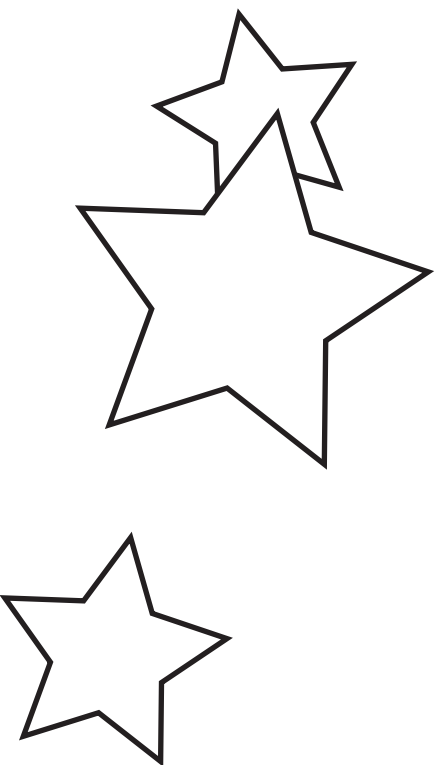
What you need to know:

Jesus died for us even though we did not deserve it. God wants us to love everyone and to serve anyone in need. Ask God to give you and your kids a servant's heart and a willingness to help others, even those you believe do not deserve it, in Jesus' name.

CRAFT ACTIVITY

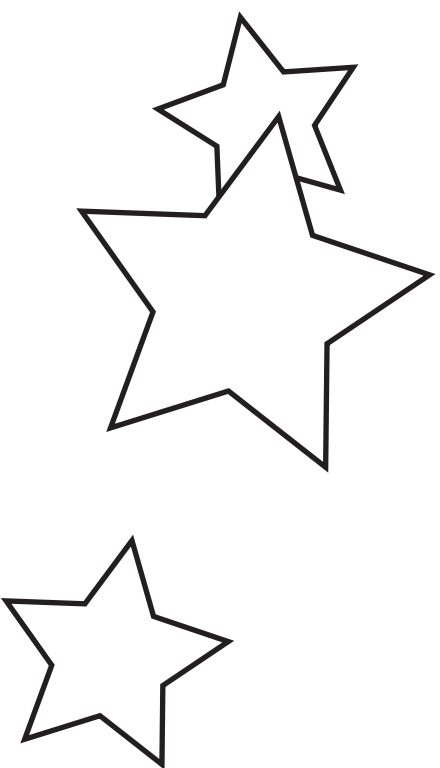
Have the kids draw and color Naaman's servant as a super hero. You can give them templates of a human shape to start with, or let them do it freehanded.

As an option to weekly drawings, you can have the kids work on one piece of artwork for eight weeks, in which they will draw all 8 heroes onto a comic book cover of their own design.



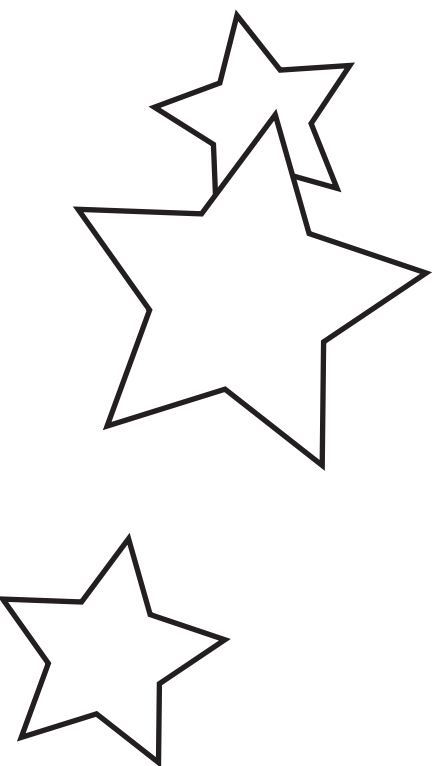
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- Matthew 20:16 (NIV)



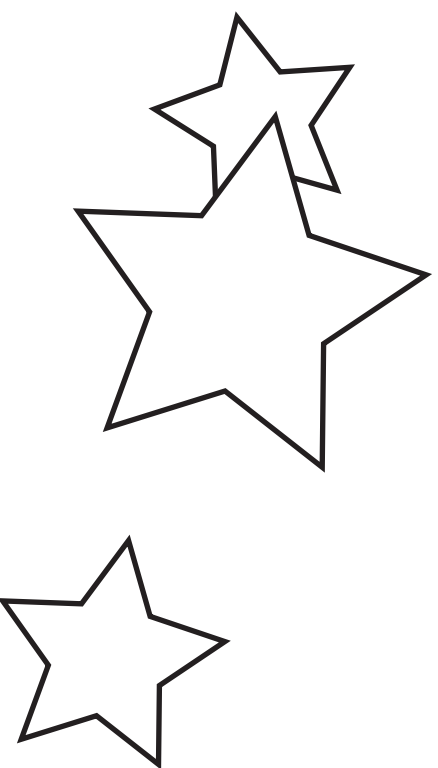
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