

WEEK 4 LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

God gives us more than we can imagine.

BIBLE

Elisha And Naaman:

2 Kings 5:1–14; Luke 11:1–13

ABOUT THIS WEEK

Art class can help remind us we all create with the same types of materials—the only difference is our imagination! This week, we'll take a look at the story of when Naaman asked for Elisha's help to be healed of leprosy. Instead of getting a meeting with Elisha, Naaman was asked to dream big and do something creative to help him see that **God gives us more than we can imagine.**

LARGE GROUP TIME

Welcome back to the Imagine That! art studio. See the blank canvases all around? The paint in the center of the room just waiting to be unleashed, filling this space with color? What masterpieces will be created here? This is the perfect place to learn about how God helped the prophet Elisha heal a man with a really bad sickness. It's also a great place to explore how God can work through us, too. Imagine that!

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

ACTIVITY | Upside-Down Drawing

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you'll need paper, crayons, and tape. You can show a time-lapse video of a ceiling painting (like [this](#) or [this](#)). Set up two chairs in the front of the room with a piece of paper taped underneath each seat. Create two teams and invite one player from each to come to lie down on their backs, under each chair, and draw on the paper with a crayon. Call out a word to draw and see which player completes it first, or whisper the word to the players and have their teams guess what they've drawn. Repeat with new paper and new players. For added activity at the end, set up the different chairs with finished drawings underneath them and invite kids to do an upside-down "gallery walk," viewing what everyone drew.*

✳ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** *Give kids with disabilities more structure with this activity. Have them color a coloring page, telling them which color crayon to switch to throughout the activity and seeing how they all made unique pieces even if it was the same picture.*

- **Have you ever seen a ceiling with art on it?** The painter Michelangelo is famous for his fresco on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, among other works. A fresco is a painting that's right on the wall. There are also artists nowadays who do cool paintings on the ceilings of their homes or in public buildings.
- In order to draw on the ceiling, artists need to use tall ladders and scaffolds. They don't have to hang upside down to paint, but what if they did? Imagine how challenging that would be. Let's try our own upside-down drawing challenge to fire up our imaginations before we dive into today's Bible story.

ACTIVITY | Just Add Water

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, you'll need one paper towel per kid (half sheets are best), permanent markers, washable markers, paper plates, and a small basin of water for groups of kids to share. Follow [these simple directions](#) to help kids create their own paper towel art. First, have them fold their towels in half and place them on their paper plates. Next, have them use a permanent marker to design something simple on the top. On the second layer underneath, have them color the design with washable markers and write their name in permanent marker. Then, have them fold the paper towel back up and soak it in the water. The colors will be revealed on the top layer! Kids can leave their artwork on their plates to dry until it's time to go.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Have preteens do a salt painting, like [this](#), and just add water(colors)!
- You'd probably think you can't do much with some paper towels, water, and markers. But look! Unimaginably beautiful art! Just adding water made all the difference.
- God sometimes surprises us by doing extraordinary things with what we think is ordinary. Today, we're going to hear a story about a man who was surprised by what God could do by just adding water.

QUESTION | Have you ever gotten more than you'd asked for?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Invite kids to share their answers freely and elaborate on their stories. Be prepared to share a story of your own.
 - ✂ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** For nonverbal kids, find creative ways for them to share their responses. Give them play dough or other materials to make things. Encourage them to use motions. Let them paint or draw pictures or choose things from around the room to use.
- **Have you ever asked your parents for something and they gave you more than you expected? When?**
- Sometimes, our thoughts on what we want or need can be limited. We don't always know what's possible because we haven't experienced it before.
- But God loves to give us good gifts. God is so good at listening and giving. God often gives us more than what we ask for—or even deserve.

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

SCRIPTURE | 2 Kings 5:1–14 (Elisha And Naaman)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set up your space like an art class. Set up a canvas, poster paper, or dry-erase board on an easel, along with paint brushes, paint palettes, and markers. If you can, draw elements of the story as you tell it—even simple stick figures are great.
- Hello, artists! Welcome back to the Imagine That! studio. We're going to create artwork inspired by Scripture.
- **Let's start by reading 2 Kings 5:1–3.**
 - First on the canvas today is Naaman, a strong and mighty soldier. Draw a figure for Naaman, with just eyes on his face.
 - Naaman had leprosy, a contagious disease that can make the skin have spots, rashes, and lumps. Draw a few dots on Naaman's face. And back then, there was no cure.
 - Thankfully, the girl who worked for Naaman's wife had heard of Elisha. She knew that Elisha could do something to help Naaman.
- **Now let's read 2 Kings 5:4–7.**
 - Naaman was from a place called Aram. Elisha lived in a place called Israel. When the king of Israel got the letter from the king of Aram, he was not happy. Draw a frowny face with a crown on top.
 - He thought the king of Aram was trying to pick a fight with him. He wondered what the king of Aram would do if Naaman didn't get healed. What if Naaman came and spread leprosy in Israel?
- **Elisha heard the king was upset and jumped into action in 2 Kings 5:8–12.**

- Naaman was angry. *Draw an angry frown and eyebrows on Naaman's face.* He didn't like what Elisha was saying. Didn't Elisha know that Naaman was an important man who had traveled a long way with the king's support?
- But Elisha didn't even show up to meet him. Instead, he simply sent his messenger to tell Naaman ... to take a bath?
- **Thankfully, the people who worked for Naaman gave good advice in 2 Kings 5:13–14.**
 - Naaman's servants helped him remember that he would have done anything to be cured of his disease. So, instead of being bitter about Elisha's message, he could try following what Elisha said.
 - And it worked. *Erase the dots and angry eyebrows from Naaman's face and replace the frown with a smile.* Naaman was healed, but not because the water had any magical powers. He was healed because he had faith in God's power to heal him, and he followed Elisha's directions.
- Whenever I dip my paintbrush into the paint, I'm not always sure how my painting will look, but most of the time, it turns out even better than I thought. God works in a similar way. Naaman probably never thought he could be completely cured of leprosy, but he found out that God's ways are way better than anything we can imagine—even our wildest, brightest, and wackiest ideas. *Imagine that!*

BIG IDEA | God gives us more than we can imagine.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you'll need [white butcher paper](#), white oil pastel or crayon, watercolor paint, and sponge brushes. Write the Big Idea (or a few key words) on the butcher paper with the white oil pastel or crayon so that it blends in and is almost invisible. Then, invite the kids to paint over it with watercolor paint and sponge brushes. The white crayon will show through the watercolors, revealing the Big Idea.*
- What Big Idea masterpiece awaits us today? Let's paint and find out.
- **God gives us more than we can imagine.**

ACTIVITY | Naaman Wash Cycle

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you'll need plastic sandwich bags, index cards, permanent markers, and regular markers. Have kids draw a picture of Naaman on an index card with a regular marker, adding spots over his body to represent his leprosy. Place the card inside the plastic bag, seal it, and trace over the image of Naaman with a permanent marker, but don't trace the spots. Dip the sandwich bag into a container of water (seven times, to go with the Bible story) to watch the spots disappear. Check out [this video](#) to see how it works.*
- At first, Naaman couldn't believe that all he had to do was dip himself in the Jordan River seven times to get rid of his serious illness forever. Even though it sounded a bit strange, he decided to follow Elisha's instructions. And guess what? God healed him completely.
- Naaman thought he would have to do something great to be healed, but all he had to do was wash in the Jordan seven times. **God gives us more than we can imagine.**

OBJECT LESSON | Paintbrush Talk

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this object lesson, every kid will need paintbrushes. Otherwise, you can hold one paintbrush up for all to see. Show pictures of famous paintings, like [The Frame](#) by Frida Kahlo or [Little Girl in a Blue Arm Chair](#) by Mary Cassatt, to accompany this talk. You may want to consult a list ([like this](#)) of alternative uses for a paintbrush.*
- When we check out iconic artworks, it's amazing to think they were made using something so small and seemingly simple ... can you believe all that beauty comes from a little paintbrush? It's stunning what you can achieve with something so simple.
- **But what's more important, the paintbrush or the painter?**
- The painter, of course. The paintbrush is just a tool, but when it's in the hands of a skilled painter, it can create a masterpiece. The painter could also find different uses for the paintbrush, like brushing sauces onto

meats or dusting off cobwebs. The possibilities are endless.

- As Naaman learned, God can do extraordinary things with ordinary things, including you and me. **God gives us more than we can imagine!**

SCRIPTURE | Luke 11:1–13

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have the kids close their eyes and listen as you read the scripture passage. Stop after each verse or couple of verses and ask kids to call out some words that stand out to them.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Engage preteens more during this activity by asking for one to thirteen volunteers who would like to read at least one verse from the passage aloud.
- When I read this part of the Bible, I picture someone praying. They might have their hands folded or lifted up, be sitting down or on their knees, maybe with their head bowed and eyes closed, or maybe just talking the way you and I are talking to one another.
- Jesus taught this prayer to his friends and followers to give them—and us—some guidelines on how to pray. Jesus invites us to praise God, ask for the things we need, and help with the things we struggle with.
- Jesus teaches us the Lord's Prayer and shows us that we have goodness in us because God created us. So, when someone asks for our help, we usually end up being ready to help, even if we're not super excited about it at first.
- That means that God, who is far greater and loves a whole lot more than we do, is even more generous and willing to give good things than we are. What amazing news.
- Those good things look different for everybody. For Naaman, it was being healed from leprosy. It might be not getting healed for someone else, for reasons only God knows. I know that's not the easiest thing to hear, but because we trust in God's goodness and love, we can trust the things God gives or doesn't give us.
- Even when we might be temporarily disappointed because we didn't get what we asked for, we'll find that in all the ways that matter, **God gives us more than we can imagine.**

VIDEO | *Imagine That!*, Episode 4

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Grow TV](#).

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

REFLECTION | Processing Through Process Art

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, you'll need a [rolling cart](#) or box of art supplies from previous weeks. Invite kids to reflect as they explore process art. This approach to art is all about freedom and independence, giving kids the space to unleash their creativity without the need for samples or strict guidelines. Allow kids to be as creative as they'd like to be!
 - ✂ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** Have kids decorate a picture frame (like [this](#)) with various art materials that can remind them of the Big Idea.
- Process art is such a fun way to do art. Instead of focusing on making something perfect, process art is all about having fun during the creative journey. The main idea is to experiment and find cool ways to use different art materials.
- Use the materials around you to make something that reminds you of today's Big Idea: **God gives us more than we can imagine.** Later on, you can share a bit about what you made if you want.

RESPONSE | Our Imagination Board

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, you'll need sticky notes and markers. Set up some kind of board where kids can post their responses.

✳ **PRETEEN HACK:** *When discussing receiving things more than they can imagine, help preteens think of intangible things God can give them. Perhaps they are developing confidence in a budding talent, have a sense of peace about attending a new school in the Fall, or have a love and zeal for God they haven't experienced before. The sky's the limit with God!*

- Let's work together to create an imagination board. Think big! This is an imagination board, after all—there is no limit to your ideas.
 - **Write or draw some things on your sticky notes that you imagine could happen in the years to come.**
 - **What do you dream about? What are some things you hope for? For yourself and for the world we live in?**
- Wow, you guys have come up with some super cool things. Some are really big and important, and others are just plain silly and fun. Thanks for sharing your thoughts with us.
- God can do way more than all the cool things we've listed on the board. Sure, we might not get the awesome stuff, fame, or flying skateboards like we've been dreaming about, but guess what? **God gives us more than we can imagine.** *Imagine that!*

MEMORY VERSE | Ephesians 2:10a (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Learn the memory verse together using any combination of the resources provided: [memory verse coloring page](#), [sign language motions](#), or choose from [this list](#) of our favorite memorization techniques!*
- **"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works."**

PRAYER

- God, the Creator, thank you for the gift of your love, which is bigger than we can imagine. You give us more than we could ever know to ask for. Help us notice and remember all the good things you have already given us. We trust that whatever you do or don't give us is always what's best. Amen.

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

DISCUSSION

- **SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS**
 - **Why did Naaman want to meet with Elisha?** *Naaman had leprosy. He wanted Elisha to heal him of this disease.*
 - **Why was Naaman angry after Elisha told him to wash in the Jordan?** *Naaman was angry Elisha didn't come and pray for him in person. He probably also felt that simply washing in the Jordan was beneath him.*
 - **Why do you think God, through Elisha, chose to heal Naaman this way?** *Let kids share their thoughts freely.*
 - **Read the prayer Jesus taught his friends in Luke 11. What words do you use when you pray?**
- **APPLICATION QUESTIONS**
 - **What are some things you need?**
 - **What are some things others you know need? What can you do for them? What can God do for them?**
 - **What is one way God has given you more than you can imagine?**

ACTIVITY | Soap Bubble Art

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you'll need card stock or paper, pencils or crayons, cups, dish detergent,*

water, food coloring, and straws. Follow [these directions](#) to set up and create soap bubble paint. Have kids write the Big Idea on a piece of card stock or paper. Then, they create their own bubble paint and place the Big Idea paper on top of the bubbles to create cool bubbly designs.

✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Have preteens make soap sculptures instead. Have them sketch a design on the paper the size of the soap bar and cut it out. Then follow [this tutorial](#) on how to carve the soap.

- These soap bubbles remind us how Naaman was fully healed by God when he followed Elisha's simple instructions about dipping himself in the river. **God gives us more than we imagine!**