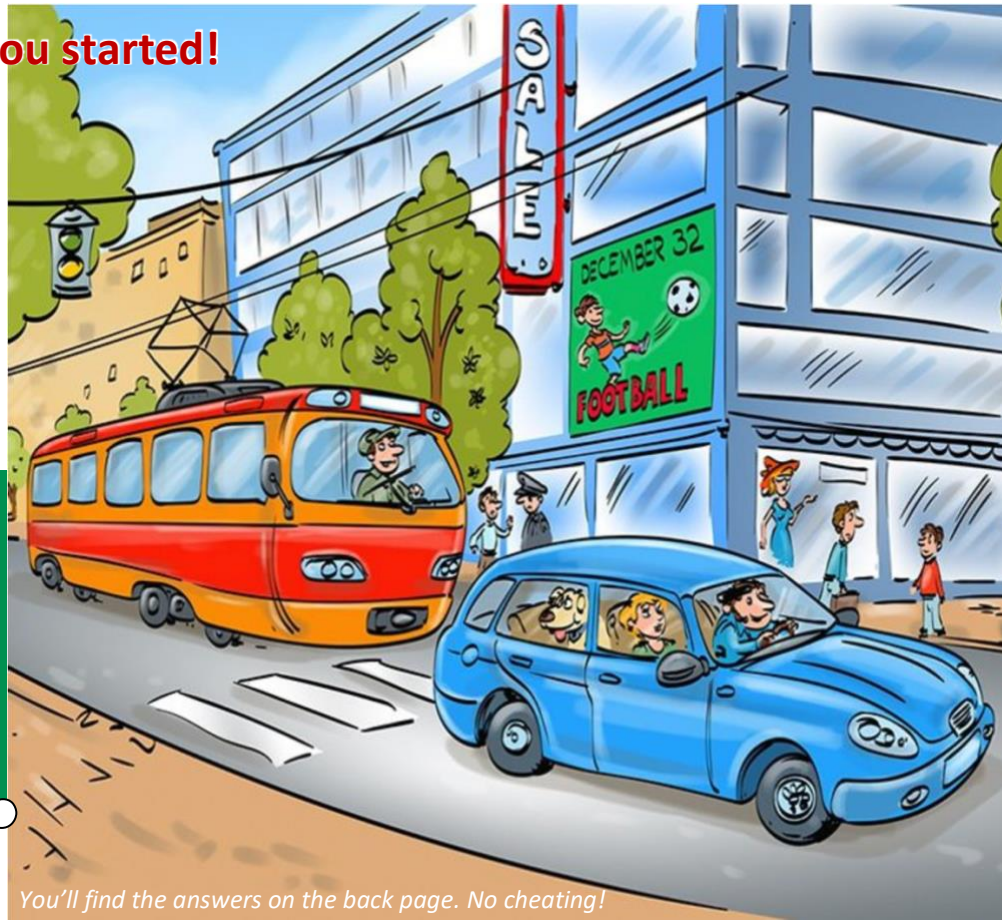


2 Kings 5.¹⁻¹⁸ renewal!

Here's a little test to get you started!

The picture shows a street in an American city. It all looks quite impressive, but if you look closely you'll see that there are **four** inaccuracies in the picture.

Can you spot them all? Draw a circle round them when you find them!



You'll find the answers on the back page. No cheating!

1. The need for renewal



When you see this graphic of the cup of crayons, colour in the words or the picture

Today's reading tells you about a man who was pretty impressive in lots of ways – but there was something not right!

His name – _____

What was his job?
He was ...

C _____
of the army of
the king of Aram

What was not right?
He had ..

L _____



Read

2 Kings 5. verses 1-3

Now Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through him the Lord had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy.

²Now bands of raiders from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. ³She said to her mistress, 'If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy.'

2. The way of the world

The king and his important army leader did what people often do when trying to solve a problem.

Here are the two things they did –

1) they tried to use their influence sometimes people try and throw their weight around to get what they want: that's what the king was doing in sending his letter to the king of Israel.

2) they tried to buy their way out of the problem

It was a huge amount of silver and gold that the man took with him – and a lot of new clothes as well!



Sometimes we think that money can buy us all the things we really need. But the most important things can't be bought – they have to be *given*.

That's what the king and his leader still had to learn!



Read

2 Kings 5. verses 3-9

⁴ Naaman went to his master and told him what the girl from Israel had said. ⁵ 'By all means, go,' the king of Aram replied. **'I will send a letter to the king of Israel.'**

So Naaman left, taking with him **ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold and ten sets of clothing.** ⁶ The letter that he took to the king of Israel read: 'With this letter I am sending my servant Naaman to you so that you may cure him of his leprosy.'

⁷ As soon as the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his robes and said, 'Am I God? Can I kill and bring back to life? Why does this fellow send someone to me to be cured of his leprosy? See how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me!'

⁸ When Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his robes, he sent him this message: 'Why have you torn your robes? Make the man come to me and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel.' ⁹ So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house.

Read

2 Kings 5. 10-12

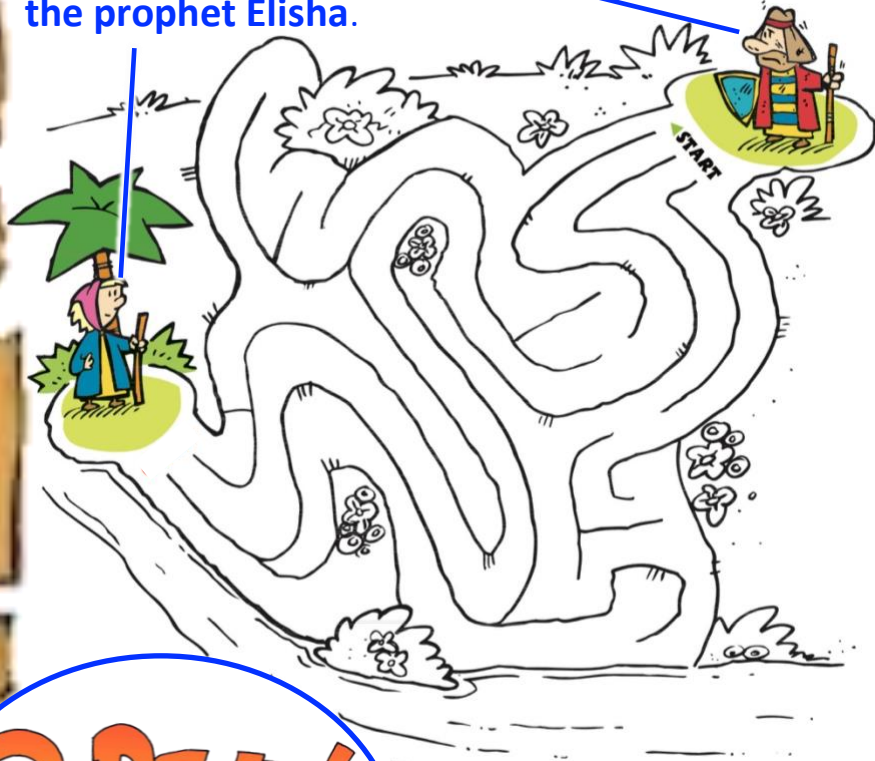
¹⁰ Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, 'Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed.'

¹¹ But Naaman went away **angry** and said, 'I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy. ¹² Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?' So he turned and went off in **a rage**.

3. The word of the gospel



Try this puzzle! Help **the army leader** get to **the prophet Elisha**.



The message which the prophet Elisha gave to the army leader was simple!

There was, firstly, **a command**.

There was also **a promise**.

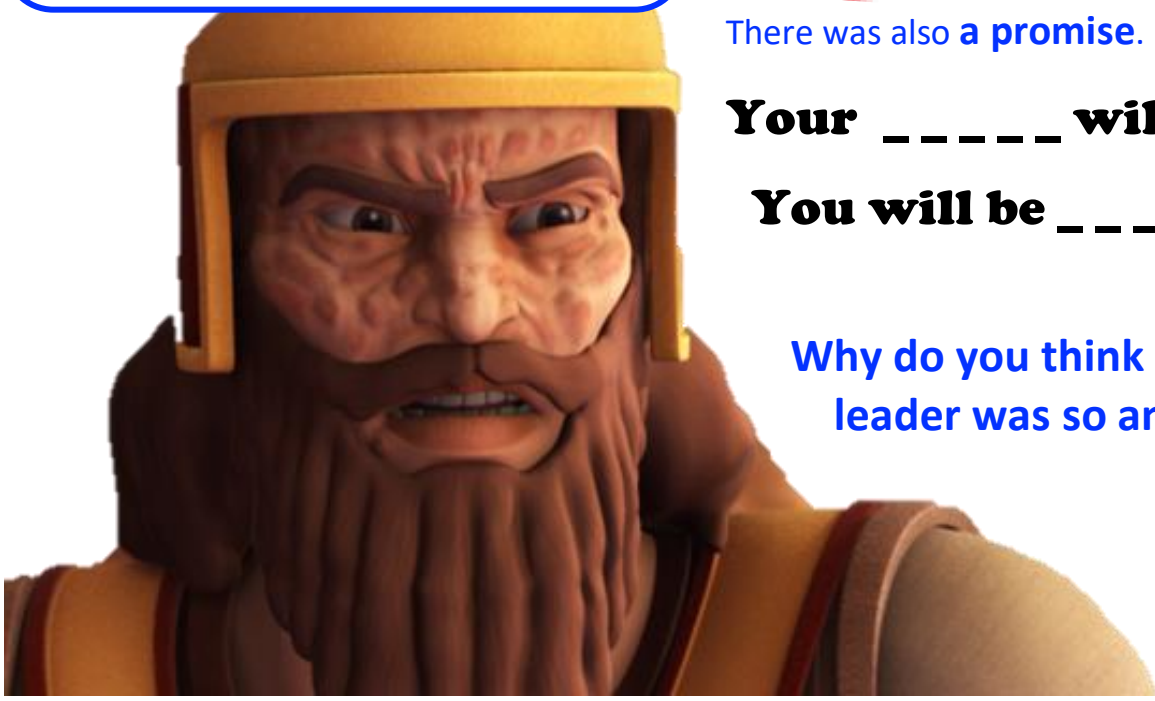
What was the command?

7

Your _____ will be _____

You will be _____ ?

Why do you think the army leader was so angry?



4. The life of

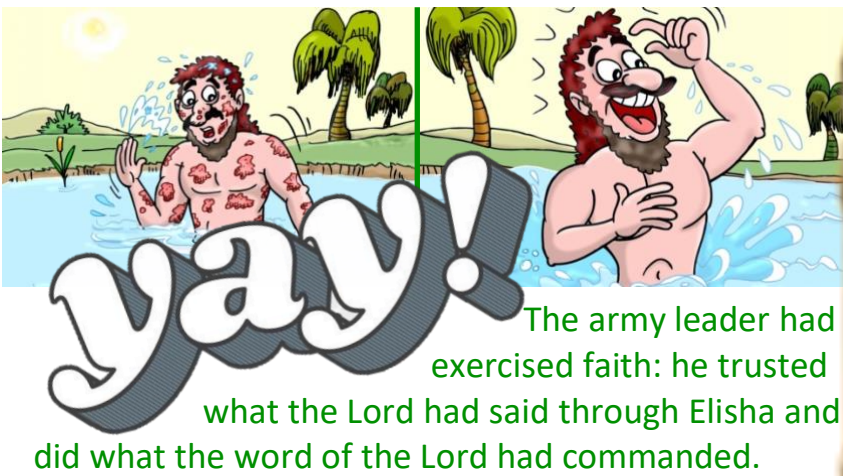


faith

The army leader's servants encouraged him to do what God's prophet had said and to take that step of faith.

That's what the man did! And God cleansed him!

God is true to His promises!



It's important that you, too, learn to live the life of faith!

The last verses in the passage help you understand what faith is and what faith involves.

Faith means

Following Jesus wherever He leads

Acknowledging Jesus alone as Lord

Identifying with Jesus' people (the church)

Trusting Jesus to forgive you for your sins

Honouring Jesus wherever you are

Read

2 Kings 1. 13-18

¹³Naaman's servants went to him and said, 'My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, "Wash and be cleansed"!' ¹⁴So 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.

¹⁵Then Naaman and all his attendants went back to the man of God. He stood before him and said, 'Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel. So please accept a gift from your servant.'

¹⁶The prophet answered, 'As surely as the Lord lives, whom I serve, I will not accept a thing.' And even though Naaman urged him, he refused.

¹⁷'If you will not,' said Naaman, 'please let me, your servant, be given as much earth as a pair of mules can carry, for your servant will never again make burnt offerings and sacrifices to any other god but the Lord. ¹⁸But may the Lord forgive your servant for this one thing: when my master enters the temple of Rimmon to bow down and he is leaning on my arm and I have to bow there also – when I bow down in the temple of Rimmon, may the Lord forgive your servant for this.'



Think about what you've been learning in this worksheet. Speak to God about what you've learned.

Thank You, Lord Jesus, that You love people from every country!

It's amazing to learn how You loved and cleansed a man who was the commander of the army of Your people's *enemies*!

That helps me to remember that You loved us, and came to us, and gave Yourself for us – even when we, too, were Your enemies.


You're amazing! And like the army commander that I've been learning about I want to give everything I have back to You and say to You – 'Lord, it's all Yours!'

Help me to live every day in a way that's pleasing to You – and in a way, too, that'll help others come to trust in You.



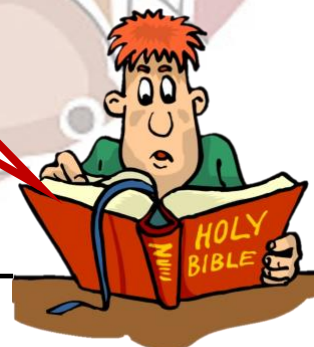
I want everyone in the world to know that You alone are God and You alone are able to save us and make us 'clean' again! You're wonderful, Jesus!

Today's verse for you to try and remember!



**“Go, wash yourself
seven times in the Jordan, and
your flesh will be restored and
you will be cleansed**

2 Kings 5.10



A WORDSEARCH ..

Here's a Wordsearch taken from the story you've been reading today in 2 Kings 5.1-18

E L I S H A R E V I R O D P Z C F
W R H P U D V S R W V T U C B J H
L T C A J N G L W A I K G A R M Y
S W B S H L H A N S V U X G U C N
U M F M T Y C K Z H E Z E T X C A
B C S M P S H P A J Z N C X E E M
U U E D X M U T W L T B N C F W A
U T V E P M D Y D Z N N T X F R A
M Z E E V A L S O O R J U I I W N
M S N N G G Y T L U E G K C H U D
O Y U L Q C C J W B D H I P E A N
I C K Y S O R P E L A F V I A N O
O S I Y M I L U H H E E V M L J J
H D R G I F T S M Z L V T Z I B E
L E B A W I J W N A E L C S N R T
E D K Y E M L Y F L H X P N G L O
W H R S W L V A F Q A I R Y S M U

Army
Healing
Naaman
Syria

Clean
Israel
River
Wash

Elisha
Leader
Seven

Gifts
Leprosy
Slave



For you to COLOUR IN



The answers to the puzzle on p.1

