

2 Kings 5.¹⁴⁻²⁷

grace .. or greed?

Gehazi, the servant of Elisha

Today's passage tells the sad story of a man called Gehazi – and the painful lesson which Gehazi had to learn.

Elisha was God's prophet, who brought God's message to the people and through whom God did some amazing things.

Gehazi was Elisha's servant: he lived with him and helped him in what he was doing.

His story reminds us that it's not enough simply to 'hang out' with God's people: each of us needs to trust the Lord Jesus for ourselves and learn to live our lives His way.

Here's a reminder of what had happened –

Read

2 Kings 5.¹⁴⁻¹⁹

¹⁴ So Naaman (*remember him? He was the commander of the Syrian king's army and had leprosy*) 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.

¹⁵ Then 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.'

¹⁶ The 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.'

¹⁸ But 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.'

¹⁹ 'Go in peace,' Elisha said.



1. grace



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

Grace means that –

- God is very **generous** in what He does for us & in what He gives to us:



- God does us good even when we're His **enemies**:



- God does what He does for us **freely** – we don't deserve it, earn it or pay for it

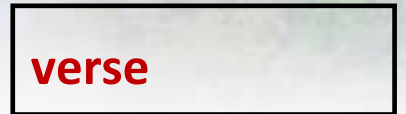
How was God **generous** to Naaman?



In what ways was Naaman God's '**enemy**'?



Which verse tells you that God's help is **free**?



verse

Try colouring in the word 'grace' below in a way that makes it stand out and will show how amazing God's grace is!





2. greed

Read

2 Kings 5. 19-24

Grace is wonderful!

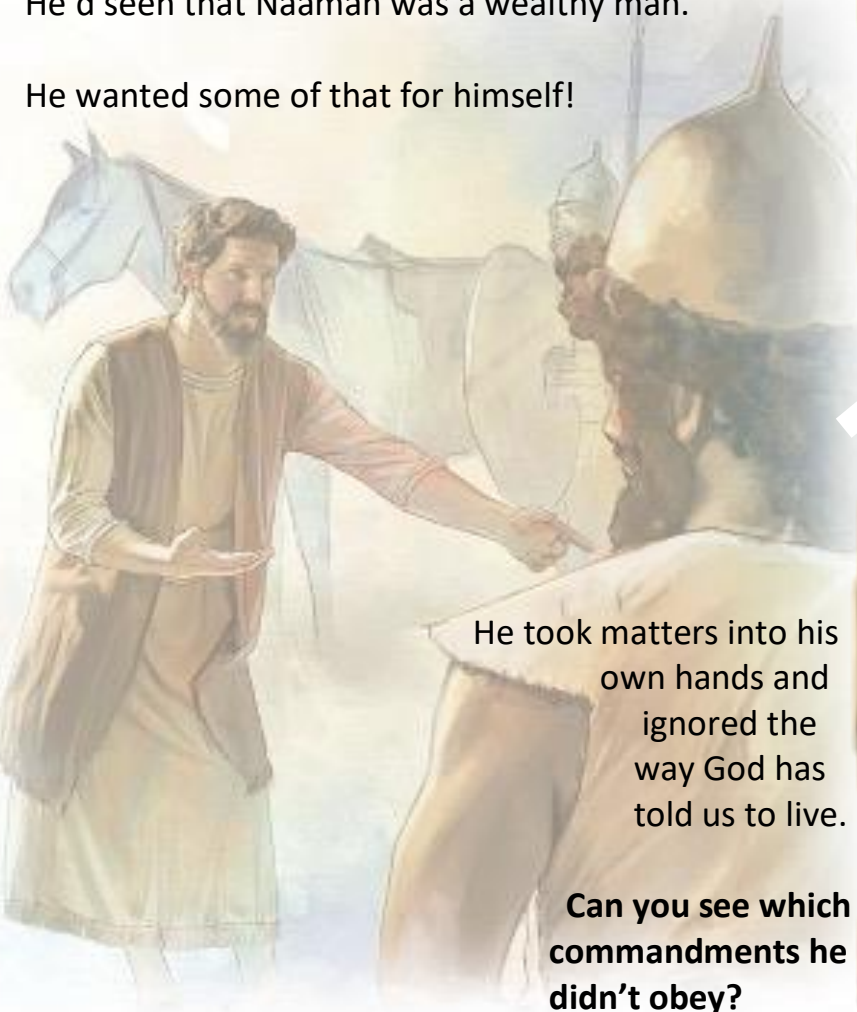
But while we all want God to show grace towards us, we're not always so keen to show grace to others.

Gehazi, the servant of Elisha, was a bit like that!

Read here what happened Gehazi did

He'd seen that Naaman was a wealthy man.

He wanted some of that for himself!



He took matters into his own hands and ignored the way God has told us to live.

Can you see which commandments he didn't obey?

You'll find the 10 commandments in **Exodus 20.1-17**. Check out the last 3 commandments and think about how Gehazi broke all of them.

You shall not steal

You shall not lie

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbour



After Naaman had travelled some distance, ²⁰Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said to himself, 'My master was too easy on Naaman, this Aramean, by not accepting from him what he brought. As surely as the Lord lives, I will run after him and get something from him.'

²¹So Gehazi hurried after Naaman. When Naaman saw him running towards him, he got down from the chariot to meet him. 'Is everything all right?' he asked.

²²'Everything is all right,' Gehazi answered. 'My master sent me to say, "Two young men from the company of the prophets have just come to me from the hill country of Ephraim. Please give them a talent of silver and two sets of clothing."'

²³'By all means, take two talents,' said Naaman. He urged Gehazi to accept them, and then tied up the two talents of silver in two bags, with two sets of clothing. He gave them to two of his servants, and they carried them ahead of Gehazi. ²⁴When Gehazi came to the hill, he took the things from the servants and put them away in the house. He sent the men away and they left.



4. groan!

Read

2 Kings 5. 25-27

²⁵ When he went in and stood before his master, Elisha asked him, 'Where have you been, Gehazi?'

'Your servant didn't go anywhere,' Gehazi answered.

²⁶ But Elisha said to him, 'Was not my spirit with you when the man got down from his chariot to meet you? Is this the time to take money or to accept clothes – or olive groves and vineyards, or flocks and herds, or male and female slaves? ²⁷ Naaman's leprosy will cling to you and to your descendants for ever.' Then Gehazi went from Elisha's presence and his skin was leprous – it had become as white as snow.

Being greedy doesn't pay!

Gehazi got a lot more than he bargained for!

It was a painful lesson he had to learn.

What did Gehazi get that he hadn't looked for?

SLY ROPE

And it was a lesson which the people of Israel would all be learning too as the years went by.

God's grace means that

He gives

– not that we're entitled to take!

FOR YOU TO **think** ABOUT ...

What lessons have you learned from this passage?

Do you tell lies ... to get what you want?
... or to try and hide what you've done?

What are the things for which you recognise you can be greedy?

How can you show more of God's grace in the way you speak and in the things you do?





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

Lord Jesus, the Bible says that You are 'full of grace and truth' – and I'm glad that's the case!

But I know that I'm not!

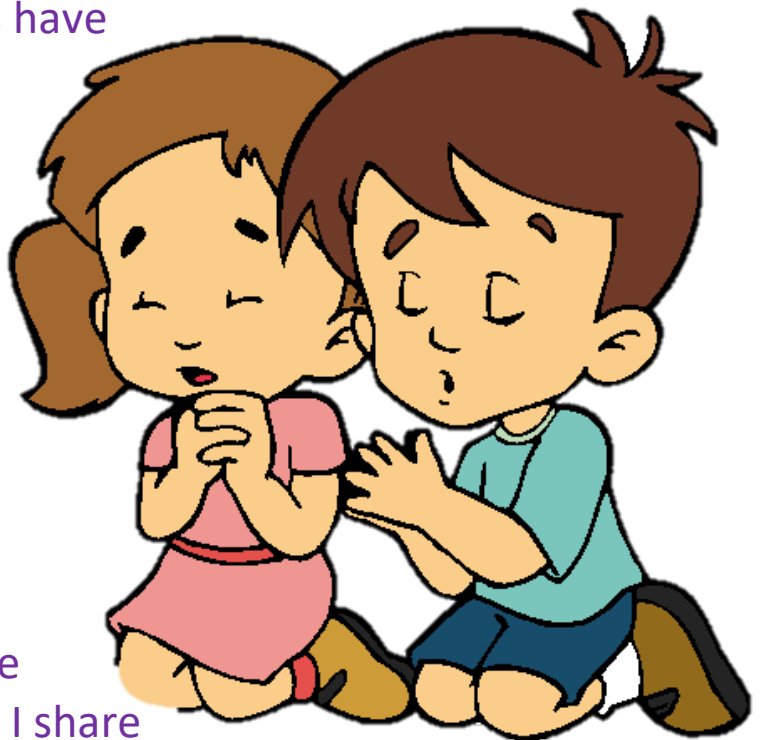
I often end up telling lies, sometimes to try and get what I want and sometimes to hide what I've done.

And often, too, I can be quite greedy. In all sorts of different ways. I can see what some of my friends have and be greedy to have that too.

I need you to help me live my life the way You mean it to be lived.

Because that's the best way – for everyone, not just for me!

Help me to tell the truth, and to be generous in what I say and in how I share what I have with others!



Today's verse for you to try and remember!

"God loves a cheerful giver"

2 Corinthians 9.7



A WORDSEARCH ..

Here's a Wordsearch all about the story of Elisha, Naaman and Gehazi

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

Honesty

Elisha

Gehazi

Naaman

Prophet

Messenger

Commander

Itchy

Dip

Seven

Jordan River

Healed

Truth

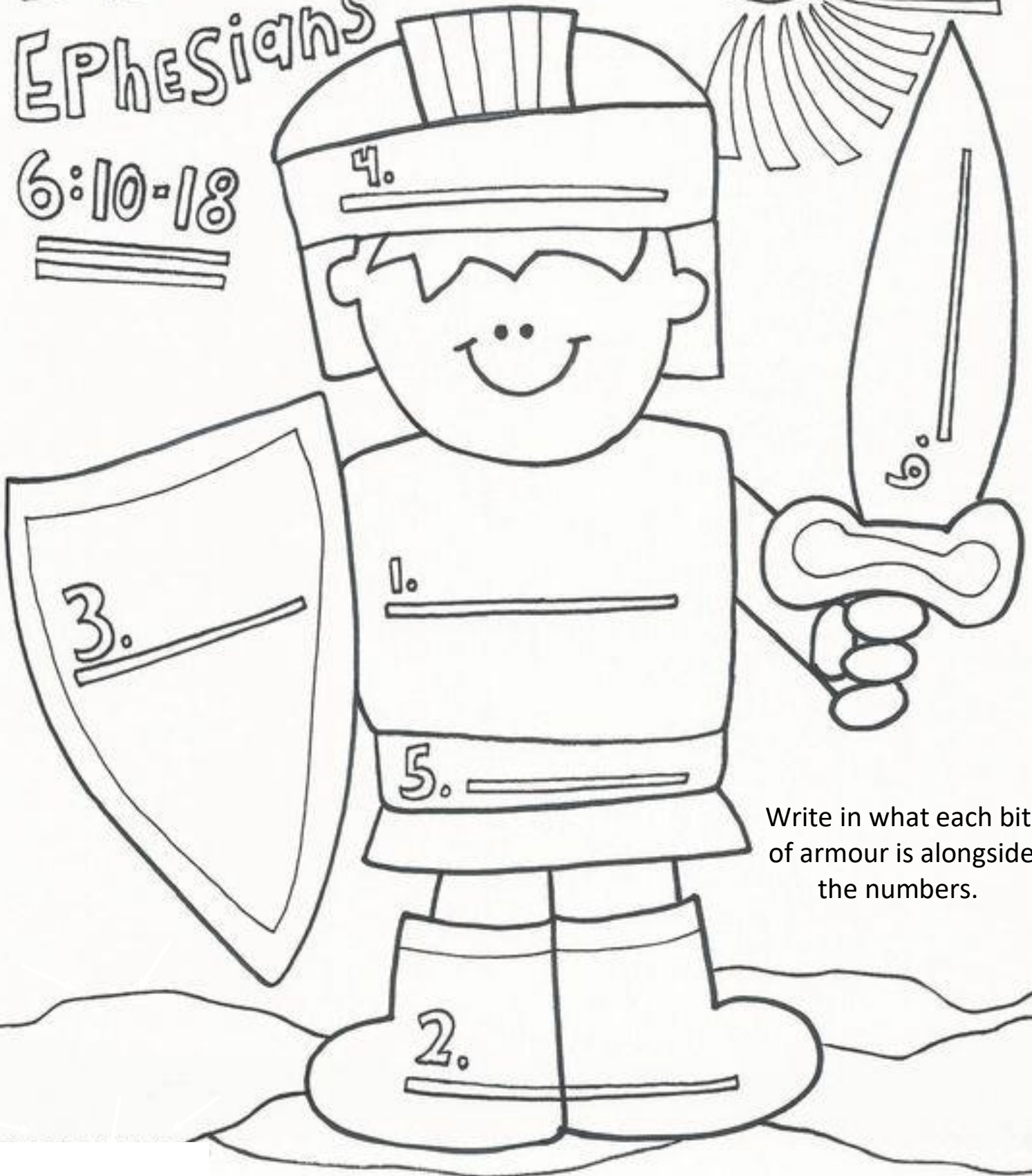


For you to COLOUR IN

ARMOR of GOD

EPHESIANS

6:10-18



Write in what each bit of armour is alongside the numbers.