

NAAMAN CHOOSES HUMBLE OBEDIENCE

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II KINGS 5:1-19A

Introduction

1. Don't wait until _____.

2. Don't _____ with God.

3. Don't _____ God's commands.

4. Don't forget to _____.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS & GROUPS

- 1 . What's your favorite BBQ meat (or vegetarian substitute)? Where's the best place to get good BBQ (even if it's out of state)? Explain Pastor Jim's BBQ Competition analogy as it applies to our engagement with the Bible.
- 2 . When you hear the word *obedience*, does it have negative or positive connotations? Explain.
- 3 . Read II Kings 5:1. Where did Naaman's military success come from? Why is that surprising? What does this tell us about God and unbelievers?
- 4 . Take a minute to put yourself in Naaman's sandals. How must he have felt when he discovered that he had leprosy? Describe one of the more recent occasions when life hit the fan for you. What were you feeling at the time?
- 5 . Why is it not a good idea to wait until a crisis hits to gain familiarity with the Bible? What do you think Dr. Jerry Sittser meant when he said that the Bible had grooved neuro-pathways in his brain? What are some ways to ensure that the Bible is doing that to your brain?
- 6 . Read II Kings 5:2-12. How does Naaman plan to gain God's favor? Why (multiple reasons) was Naaman so offended by Elisha's command from God?
- 7 . Recap the story behind Samuel's rebuke of King Saul with the words: "To obey is better than sacrifice." (See I Samuel 15 if necessary.) What is meant by this rebuke? Why does God rate our obedience higher than our sacrifice?
- 8 . Read James 1:22-25. What are the two different approaches to the Bible described in these verses? What are the connecting steps between listening to (or reading) the Bible and putting it into practice? (Hint: Think C-O-M-M-A.)
- 9 . Read II Kings 5:13, 14. Why were Naaman's servants especially qualified to give him advice about obedience? What are some dangers inherent in picking and choosing what we're going to obey in God's Word? How is our obedience tested when we don't agree with--or see the point of--certain biblical commands?
10. Read II Kings 5:15-19a. Why is worshiping God such an important prelude to obeying God? What do you know about King Jesus that should make you eager to obey him?
11. Extra Credit: What did you take away for your own life from the Gehazi epilogue to this story in verses 19b-27?

PRAYER PROMPT: Rhythm of Life. Take a few minutes and brainstorm as many ways as you can think of that you connect with God through scripture (reading, meditating, hearing it, memorization, etc.). Make 4 boxes, labeled "daily" "weekly" "monthly" and "yearly." Then, using your list, pick one method from your list for each box that you can do with that frequency (e.g. daily reading, weekly meditation, etc.). Share it with a friend or your group, pray for each other to commit to those rhythms, and then go for it!