

**Week 5 of June**  
Even if it's not what I think, I obey

- **Text:** 2 Kings 5:9~14 (June 29)
- **Bottom line:** Sometimes I accept that God's ways are right, even when I don't understand them, and I obey them.

≡ **1. Praise**

(Worship and praise) 주님 말씀하시면

≡ **2. Prayer**

Thank you, God, for allowing us this time to come to You to be the compass of our lives. Please fill us with heaven's grace and love as we share Your words and our lives.

≡ **3. The Word**

Read 2 Kings 5:9~14 together (read the verse 3 times).

\* Reading the Word over and over again in different translations will help you to deepen your understanding of the material.

<ESV>

9 So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and stood at the door of Elisha's house. 10 And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean." 11 But Naaman was angry and went away, saying, "Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call upon the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper. 12 Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage. 13 But his servants came near and said to him, "My father, it is a great word the prophet has spoken to you; will you not do it? Has he actually said to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?" 14 So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God, and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

<NASB>

9 So Naaman came with his horses and his chariots, and stood at the doorway of Elisha's house. 10 And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh will be restored to you and you will be clean." 11 But Naaman was furious and went away, and he said, "Behold, I thought, 'He will certainly come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the site and cure the leprosy.' 12 Are Abanah and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, not better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage. 13 Then his servants approached and spoke to him, saying, "My father, had the prophet told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?" 14 So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, in accordance with the word of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

## Understanding Text

Naaman, the chief of the army of Syria, came to Elisha in northern Israel to heal him of leprosy (a malignant skin disease). When Elisha's messenger told him that washing seven times in the Jordan River would heal him, Naaman became angry and wanted to leave. In the end, Naaman was persuaded by his servants to obey Elisha's words and was healed.

### Understanding the text for leaders

Syria is a state in the northeast of Israel, and its capital is Damascus. God rules not only Israel, but also Gentile nations. The text is about Naaman, a general who was favored by the king of Syria. Naaman was stricken with leprosy (a malignant skin disease) that could not be cured by the medical techniques of the time. A young servant girl from northern Israel who had seen Naaman struggle to cure his leprosy introduced him to the prophet Elisha. Naaman took the letter from the king of Syria and went first to the king of northern Israel. When the incompetent and faithless king of northern Israel read a letter from the king of Syria asking for a cure for leprosy, he tore his garments and despaired. The record of Syria's invasion of northern Israel (2 Kings 5:2) shows that Aram's military power was superior to that of northern Israel at that time. When Elisha hears that the king has torn his garments, he tells him to send General Naaman to him. General Naaman came to Elisha, but Elisha didn't meet him, so he sent an errand boy to tell him to wash seven times in the Jordan River. Naaman felt ignored. Besides, I didn't understand being told to bathe in the small Jordan River, which is incomparably worse than the beautiful rivers of Havana and Barbal in Aram. He was angry and wanted to return to his country. Then the servants persuaded Naaman, and Naaman changed his mind and went to the Jordan River to wash himself, as Elisha had said. Then his body was restored as clean as a child's skin. God's way of doing things is often different from what we think. Even if you don't understand it or have common sense, if you believe in God's power and obey Him, you will experience amazing miracles.

## 4. Sharing

1) How did Naaman, who was angered by Elisha's servant, eventually be healed? (Verses 10~14)

### Upper Grades

How was General Naaman healed? (verse 14).

### Lower Grades

How was General Naaman healed? (verse 14).

### Question Guide

Naaman is angry because he doesn't understand what Elisha is saying, but in the end, he breaks his mind and obeys. When Naaman tastes healing, he learns that the river does not have the power to heal, but the God of Israel. Describe in detail how General Naaman came to believe in God's power.

### Comments for Leaders

Havana and Barbal in Aram were rivers known for their beauty. The Gentiles, who did not believe in God, thought that nature was imbued with divine power. So, if the river was big and splendid, it was considered to be full of divine power. The Jordan River, on the other hand, was too small and insignificant to have the power to heal the gods. It looked even more shabby, especially during the dry season, not the rainy season. God wanted to show the power of God through Elisha. He wanted them to know that it was not the Jordan River that mattered, but the importance of obeying God's word. It's a method that is beyond the comprehension of human calculations and common sense, but we must remember that when God works, amazing things can happen even in seemingly insignificant places.

2) Even though I know God's will, what is it that makes it difficult for me to obey Him? What should you do about it?

■ **Upper Grades**

Can I confess that God's words are more correct and better than I thought?

■ **Lower Grades**

Whenever God speaks, he always says, "Yes!" Can you answer that?

□ **Question Guide**

We know what to choose and how to act in our laziness, friendships, worship attitudes, words, actions, and habits, even if it is not a big problem in life, such as Naaman's skin disease. But like Naaman, who hesitated to enter the river, we often have a hard time choosing the right thing. Let's talk with Naaman so that we can see who we are.

□ **Comments for Leaders**

We often judge based on our experience, knowledge, and information. I want you to examine yourself to see if you are following this judgment for your own greed, even though you know that it is against God's will. We must also remember that God's thoughts are different from ours and higher than our thoughts (Isaiah 55:8~9). Seeking God's will before making an important choice is what people of faith who rely on God should take.

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord, for as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8~9).

≡ **5. Be grateful**

Believe that God's Word is right, obey Him, and thank Him for healing and restoring Him.

≡ **6. Prayer**

God, sometimes I don't understand what you want me to do, and it's hard to obey it. May we obey You, remembering that Your will is always higher and greater than we think. So let us enjoy the grace that You have prepared for us.

- End the family worship service with the Lord's Prayer.