

**Background:**

The name *Elijah* means “my God is Jehovah or my God is Yahweh.” Very little is known about this ninth century B.C. prophet. All the personal history known about this great man of God is stated in 1 Kings 17:1 “Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead.” Elijah prophecy during the reigns of Ahab and his son Ahaziah. The last prophet of the New Testament, John the Baptist, is associated with Elijah because of his apparel and mainly because he came in the spirit and power of Elijah (Matt. 11:14).

The name *Elisha* means “God is salvation.” Not much is known about this prophet that succeeded Elijah the Tishbite. Elisha was the son of Shaphat who lived in the Jordan valley and it appears that he was a farmer (1 Kings 19:16, 19).

Although there is very little personal information about these two men, the impact they had in biblical history still speaks today.

**Lesson Outline:****Elisha Heals Naaman:****2 Kings 5: 1-7**

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**vv. 8-19**

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**vv. 20-27**

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**Key Themes:**

- Naaman the leper
- Israelite girl shares information about the prophet
- The Jordan River instructions
- Naaman’s healing
- Gehazi’s greed

**Summary:**

Naaman, a Syrian military commander afflicted with leprosy, is told; a young Israelite captive girl informs Naaman about the prophet Elisha who can heal him, leading Naaman to travel to Israel where Elisha instructs him to bathe seven times in the Jordan River to be cleansed, which Naaman does, resulting in his healing; however, Elisha's servant Gehazi later deceives Naaman by lying about needing more money to help him, and as a result, Gehazi is struck with leprosy himself, highlighting the consequences of greed and disobedience.

**Small Group Discussion:**

1. Describe Naaman's position and status in Syrian society.
2. How was Naaman's disease affecting his life in society?
3. Who first told Naaman about the prophet and what is their relationship to him?
4. How does Gehazi's deception and subsequent punishment reflect on the concept of integrity and honesty in our lives?

**5/14 – 1 Samuel 1**